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RIEND OF INDIA,

FOR THE YEAR

1851

VOLUME XVII.

SEPARATELY

SOLD.









# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

**PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.**

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### GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

EXPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER  
"HADDINGTON," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.

**NOTICE** is hereby given, for general information, that the mails for the Straits and the intermediate Ports, viz., Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong, are despatched for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Haddington*, which will call at this Office on Tuesday, the 7th proximo, and an after packet will be despatched hence on Wednesday, the 8th inst., with the ordinary Mail, to ensure arrival at Aden, viz., in time to reach the Straits. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Haddington* can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

NOTICE is hereby given, that under instructions from  
Government, the present detailed and indiscrimi-  
nate opening of covers and packets passing through the  
Post Office in Bengal, will be discontinued from the  
1st July. A special Registry of letters on payment of  
a fee of 1 anna will be introduced, from the date above

J. R. BURTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Post Office, 15th December, 1871.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge  
following Donations :—

For Mrs. Judson.		
Stairs, Esq.,	...	20 0
per Elliot, Esq.,	...	15 0
T. McCarty,	...	15 0

desire to offer to all our readers in general and to our subscribers in particular, a new year, and many happy returns of it on such an occasion as this, we desire to do every feeling of personal or editorial interest, and to wish them a return of the season, of the hills and dales of merry old England. We also return to them our cordial acknowledgments for the kind notices to this Journal, and to assure them our gratitude for that intense cheer, which is created by the expectation of favours. We hope the present year will be fought with many blessings to them, to us, and India in general—the progress of the rail, the extension of the electric telegraph, the stoppage, the Criminal Code and the return the Governor General to the seat of Government.

PROGRESS OF OVERHAULING—377.—The  
by putting the Railway officers in possession  
of the land was passed on Friday, 15th 20th  
member, after 21/2 days of the session  
work had been lost; it was fully expected  
as every legal difficulty had now been  
completely removed, active operations would  
be commenced on Monday morning; but we  
regret to state that they day more land has been al-  
located without any movement. It is said  
the Commissioner *does* not consider him-  
self furnished with sufficient power by the late  
Act, to proceed at once to take possession  
of the land, and make it over to the Railway  
Company, though it would be difficult to conceive of  
a more complete, more decisive, and more  
effective in its provisions. It is not easy to dis-  
tinguish ground for this of this dispute delay. It  
is generally supposed, that the Commission  
in this town to throw out  
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fatal to that energy which is the characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon race in every other part of the world. On the present occasion, two months out of the four which nature has provided for field operations in Bengal, have been wantonly fecked away, and we have a gloomy foreboding that the same principle of dilatoriness and lethargy, will mark all the progressive operations of the Rail. The Government of India has not been able to make the most of the advantages connected with the approaching season, and the Charter, will commence immediately; and public interest will be powerfully attracted to the great questions of our public administration in India. This is not the season for sloth; yet in reference to one of the most important national enterprises, ever entrusted to this Government, it has manifested a degree of apathy and indifference which is calculated to bring in question the wisdom of again confiding the destinies of India to its hands, unless it is possible to effect a more radical reformation in the Government, and to give the requisite energy to its movements.

THE NEW CHARTER.—The period was at length arrived for reviewing and repudiating the Government of India, for the third time in the present century. The Charter of 1813 was passed during a period of excitement and distraction of the mind which had been no example since the revolution of 1688. We were at the time engaged in a struggle for 140 years with the most formidable foe we had ever encountered; there was no leisure for a calm review of the Indian question, and the Charter was passed with a want of consideration which had have been utterly unjustifiable under other circumstances. The only measures of importance for which it provided were the establishment of a Sec, and the liberty granted to Europeans to settle in India. The Charter was passed in haste, and it, therefore, afforded no precedent for our proceedings in reference to the occasion which is again about to turn up. We must pass on therefore to the last Charter, granted in a season of leisure and tranquillity, after a full and careful review of the question, as the example which ought to guide us in the present instance. Before the period for discussion had arrived, the manufacturers and the merchants were already in the field with the view of throwing open the trade of China to the nation, and a special Committee was appointed by the House of Commons in 1880. In 1881 came on the first of the three years of grace, and on the 4th of February, 1881, the President of the Board of Control moved the appointment of the Committee, which sat with intervals to the middle of August, 1882. It is, therefore, most devoutly to be wished that Lord John Russell will follow the good and wholesome precedent which his own party set in 1831, and move the appointment of a Select Committee to enquire into the administration of India, within a week after the meeting of Parliament in February 1881. In the discussions which took place twenty years ago, the Directors, so whom a new lease of political life was guaranteed, had to fight manfully for a prolongation of their commercial privileges. It was doubtless done by a feeling of antipathy to that commerce which had been

the basis of their greatness; and both parties have gained the struggle with vigour. Much time has been consumed in the efforts of the merchants and business-owners to strengthen the commercial functions of the Company; and in the arduous defence of the commercial provision by the Directors themselves. We shall have no such discussions in the present year; there will be no squabbles about *trampers* or the importation of *Tea*; there will be no differences of opinion to adjust as to the question whether *Trade* has contributed to *Trade*, or *Trade* to *Territory*. During the period which has elapsed since the passing of the last Charter, the Company have sustained none but political responsibilities, and the Committee of Enquiry will therefore be enabled to confine its attention to the great and important question, how far the Company have been successful as an instrument for the Government of India.

This is the first occasion on which the enquiries of a Parliamentary Committee will be directed exclusively to questions connected with the public administration in India, which so deeply affects the welfare of the people, and Two years appear to be by no means too long a period for that thorough investigation which is required. It must be a root and branch enquiry, and embrace the whole of the internal economy of the Indian Governments. Some have been led to suppose that it might be limited to the few salient points regarding the Constitution of the Government, and that at least in India, which will be embodied in the new arrangement for the administration of this empire, and that it should exclude all matters of detail. But the enquiry, to be productive of any real benefit to this country, ought to embrace a wider scope. It is only once in twenty years that the Government of India comes under the cognizance of a Parliamentary Committee, and the opportunity should be improved for the institution of a complete and searching examination of the whole system of administration. For this Presidency, we were a fearless comparison of the Government of Agra and Bengal, and the result of the experiments. We require an unreserved investigation of the Senjory system, which gradually become so deeply rooted, the principle of which is in the Lower Provinces that at length it appears as if north of Parliamentary interference can ever maintain. We require a full disclosure of its effects on the soil and ever serves itself, and on the welfare of millions of people. We want a full process by which the intricate Court of Directors for the enervate, have become a dead letter of Bengal has been restate of prostration that it would of selling Singapore to the Dutting to promote a civilian, who actions, out of his Seniority have the question of a crown administration of these provinces nominated and ed and second from success gated, and the grounds dered advisable, if not and incontestably establish the education of the C and in India, to be it



supposed that, considering the nature and importance of the enterprise in which the affairs were concerned, and the magnitude of the territory their valor had added to our dominion, the Court would have acted more justly as well as more liberally, had they given twelve months instead of six months' batta, but we do not see that they were obliged either by law or justice, to distribute any portion of the State Property of the Punjab to the army. Moreover, every officer who accepted that donation delivered himself from the power of afterwards claiming any property obtained, or said to be obtained, by the conquest of the Punjab, as the General Order announcing the donation distinctly stated that it was to stand in lieu of all further demands. We have no wish to extend the discussion, as it is evident that, justly or unjustly, the Government is determined not to give up the property, and any further argument can only tend to produce mutual exasperation. With regard to the Koh-i-Noor, it has been professedly given to and accepted by Her Majesty, and as it would belong to her either as prize, or as a gift from Dhillup Singh, there can be no use in any further discussion as to its disposal.

**SIR CHARLES NAPIER'S PARTING ORDER REGARDING THE DEBTS OF THE ARMY** will be found in another page. We need not recommend it to the perusal of the officers, as we are confident that there is not an officer at this Presidency, who has not by this time read it with the deepest attention. We think Sir Charles has performed a great service to the army, by thus placing on record his sentiments on a question of the most vital importance to the individual comfort and interest of its members. The subject is thus likely to secure the attention of the officers and of the public authorities, both here and at home, and thereby to lead to some energetic measures for the correction of this wide spread and growing evil. Sir Charles Napier's language is severe, but not more so than the occasion required, and he will not have written in vain, if his representations shall serve to revive in the minds of the officers that sense of moral and professional dignity, which is blunted if not obliterated by the habit of indebtedness which has become so prevalent. It is in vain to attempt to conceal the fact that the normal state of the Bengal army is debt; that the officers are at this moment, under pecuniary obligations, to the extent of more than a Million Sterling. Neither can it be gained that the debts of the officers have increased with the facilities which have been presented to them for obtaining loans by the establishments of the Banks. These institutions have unquestionably proved beneficial to those who would otherwise have borrowed money at higher interest, and obtained accommodation from forbidden sources, at the risk of their commissions, but they have at the same time proved sources of temptation to the young and the inconsiderate, and have induced many men to incur debts, who but for their existence would have been content with their pay. Upon those who are already deep in the books of the Bank, the paternal advice of Sir Charles Napier cannot of course be expected to produce any result. They must extricate themselves from their difficulties as they best can. But, it is to those who are yet free from these encumbrances that its admonitions are especially addressed.

An attempt has been made to show that an Ensign cannot live upon his pay and allowances, and we have now three calculations before us of the indispensable expenditure of the

"flowers" of the Bengal army, as the *Delhi Gazette* styles them. It would be an incredible task to analyze these schedules, and to attempt to overstate any items which may appear in a state of the Ensigns may be considered in a state of "chum" too. Upon £800 a year, there would not be any more at all for their incurring debts. But as these representations are not likely to produce any effect on the Court of Directors, and to lead to any augmentation of their pay, the fact with which we have to deal is, not that an Ensign cannot live on his pay, but that he must do so, from the necessity of circumstances. He must cut his coat according to his cloth. Getting into debt, which is considered the remedy for the parsimony of the Court, does not enable him to live on his pay as an Ensign; it only renders it impossible for him to live on his pay as a Lieutenant and a Captain, by the fearful stoppages which it entails on him. Moreover, it is not because an Ensign's pay is 180 Rs. a month and not 215 or 220 Rs. that he is so often found to be in debt. According to those who have drawn up the table of expenses, an augmentation of 20, or 25 Rs. a month, would remove all excuse for debt; but it is not the difference between a sufficient and an insufficient allowance which leads the Ensign to the Bank for a loan; that loan is often contracted before he has been six months in the country, and far exceeds in amount what would be equivalent to four or five years of the difference between an adequate and inadequate allowance. Neither is it expended in making up the supposed deficiency of his monthly allowances; but in indulgences which were not necessary. The debt would therefore have been equally incurred if the allowances had been on what is deemed a sufficient scale. It was not so much the smallness of the pay, as the habit of thoughtless expenditure, and the absence of all self-denial, which led about Two hundred Ensigns to apply to the Agra Bank for loans, as the Directors stated in their report for 1877.

There is one portion of Sir Charles Napier's notification which deserves particular attention; we allude to that which refers to the unnecessary expensiveness of messes. It will be vain for an ingenuous youth to endeavour to bring his own personal expenses within his income, and to practise the most laudable self control, if he is made responsible for his share of a mess maintained upon a scale of unnecessary extravagance. How he is not his own master, and how he is to be brought into difficulties for expenses in which he has no voice. It is therefore the bounden duty of the officer in command of a Regiment, to maintain that general supervision which shall check extravagance, without appearing to exhibit an indelicate intrusiveness into the private affairs of his officers. A mess is a regimental institution, and as such should obtain the benefit of the Colonel's or the Major's attention. We have every confidence that the salutary advice which Sir Charles has bequeathed to the army, will be enforced by the authority of his successor, and that no effort will be spared to prevent the perpetration of this system of debt.

**THE NORTH WESTERN BANK, AND MAJOR ANGELO.**—It is now more than a month since the shareholders of the North-West Bank of India were startled by the receipt of a circular addressed to them by the Directors of that institution, and containing grave charges against the secretary, Major Angelo. This document announced that certain fictitious entries in

Major Angelo's own hand writing, had been discovered in the books of the Bank, and that there were deficiencies to the extent of Rupees 1,12,520-5-0, together with a sum of Rupees 31,076-1-0, lost by interest, making up a total loss to the Bank of Rs. 1,43,496-6-0. As might have been expected, the affair was warmly taken up by the shareholders and the Press, and all kinds of documents and circulars were issued by Major Angelo, by the Directors as a body, and by individual shareholders, but the business still appeared as mysterious as ever. The only fact really brought to the public was that the North-West Bank had sustained very serious losses, and that the whole ex-act of the dividend had not been revealed. A report of a General Meeting of the Shareholders of the North-West Bank, held at Meerut on Monday the 23rd, and published in the *Delhi Gazette* of the 23rd December, clears up several of the points in dispute, and reveals a scene, almost without a parallel in the history of Banking. It appears that immediately on the receipt of the circular of the Directors, a Meeting of the shareholders resident in Calcutta was called to investigate more fully the nature of the transactions referred to in that document. At that meeting, held on the 30th November, every shareholder known to be in Calcutta was present, and several important documents were read. The first was a letter signed by Mr. C. B. Wood, Deputy Secretary to the Bank, calling upon Major Angelo for an explanation of certain defects in his accounts, as the "Directors had satisfied themselves by inspection of the several accounts, and those of the Calcutta Agency, that the Bank does not appear to have received from the parties in question the amounts to have been credited with." The particulars of the accounts said to have been falsified, and the exact manner in which the funds were misappropriated, have never yet been published, but the Editor of the *Delhi Gazette*, who appears to have had the fullest access to all papers, declares in his issue of the 11th December, that "he speaks on unquestionable authority when he hazards the assertion that Major Angelo has exhausted the art of deceptive book-keeping." One at least of these transactions has, however, been fully exposed, and we condense the following account of it from the documents read at the meeting on the 23rd December, and from the *Delhi Gazette* of the 11th December. Mr. Charles Gubbins at that meeting read a statement which he had extracted from the books of the Bank, that Captain Blois, a Bank Director, purchased from the Bank, in August 1847, One hundred and thirty-two reserved shares, and there appeared immediately after in the Bank books a Government note, number 19,222, of date 1845, and of the value of 70,200 Rupees. A question with respect to this note was addressed to the Accountant General, who declared that such a note could not have been received, because such a note had never existed. This purchase took place in August 1847, and in December of the same year, Captain Blois undertook an audit of the Bank's books, and published a special report, in which he declared that the financial condition of the Bank was highly satisfactory, and that the assets were all correct. In February 1848, Captain Blois credited One hundred and thirty-two shares of the Oriental Bank to the North-Western, and he declared that this scrip was his payment for the reserved shares purchased in August 1847. Mr. Gubbins, however, shows that the shares were entered in the name of Fredk. Angelo, Major of Invalids, instead of Fredk. Angelo, Secretary to the North-western

Bank, and this is corroborated by the fact that the non-existent notes stands credited on the Bank books as payment for the reserved shares. It is scarcely possible that Major Angelo, in whose name these shares were entered, could have been ignorant of the transaction, because, even supposing that he allowed the shares to be entered in his own name, with the intent of saving the Bank from becoming responsible for any of the liabilities of the Oriental, the fictitious entry of the non-existent note remains to be accounted for. Such is the recorded history of two of these transactions, and apparently the only reply made by Major Angelo, is contained in the following sentences: "With regard to the other several items of account which have not been met by credits in Calcutta and London, it is with deep regret that I must acknowledge they were losses or deficiencies which I could not account for at the time, nor can I now. I disposed of them for the time in hopes of discovering how they occurred. It must have been, I think, in the sale and distribution of Stock or in wrong calculation of dividends, but I have never yet been able to discover, and add I hope to clear them off by profits, when the crash came and ruined all those hopes for the time. Had it been in my power, I would have paid them myself sooner than let them stand over, as I have before done, for they have made my life one source of anxiety and misery." This sentence "I did hope to clear them off by profits" is remarkable, as it would seem to imply that Major Angelo intended to wipe out certain deficiencies by placing them, without acknowledgment of their character, as losses against future profits. Again, "I can offer no excuse for concealing these losses beyond my earnest wish to prevent further injury to the Bank and my mistaken hope that they would have been wiped off by the profits of the Bank. I now see the error of concealment, and if the Directors will only overlook the past, they may depend upon my solemn assurance that every transaction good or bad, shall be made patent to them and that the rest of my life shall be devoted to the interest of the Bank." This is in fact an admission that Major Angelo had nothing whatever to say in palliation of the deficiencies, although we see, from a note he has since published, that he intends to stand upon the defence of his character.

Thus stands this chapter in India Banking history. Every fact we have given is on the authority of a Director of the Bank, and was distinctly stated in the presence of Captain Blois by Mr. Gubbins. We see that the *Magnificent* attributes to this gentleman "periodical aberrations of intellect," but the documents handed in by him, were evidently penned in a lucid interval, when he was in the complete enjoyment of his logical faculties. Both Captain Blois and Major Angelo, may possibly be able to clear themselves of everything except error of judgment, and we sincerely hope they may do so, but, meanwhile, the affair does not wear that straightforward appearance so indispensably necessary in all financial matters, generally, and Mofussil Banking arrangements, in particular. We have not yet alluded to the consequences of all these occurrences upon the financial condition of the Bank itself. The statements made by Mr. C. Gubbins, on this point are so extraordinary that we must quote his own words:

"You are aware that in a recent circular to proprietors I stated that, 'Transactions entered into by Major Angelo, have now found to have resulted in no much loss, that if the Bank's assets were at this moment to be divided, they would only afford about four hundred European shares; that is, the loss amounts to about 50 per cent. on capital.'

On this point I have been fully contradicted by Captain Watt and Blois, who however did not take the trouble

of examining any error I may have fallen into, or of furnishing any more accurate estimate of their own. I have therefore myself compiled from the Bank's books a detailed schedule, by which it appears that the loss already entered on transactions dating before March 1848, amounts to 7 lakhs and 77 thousands.

"While the probable loss on bad and doubtful loans of that period, with the false entries recently discovered, is about 10 lakhs.

"Total, 10 lakhs and 77 thousands; of this amount however, 4 lakhs and 80 thousands have already been paid, the moneys find and find the balance profit of 1248-9, leaving still to be provided for, a trifle under 6 lakhs.

"This on a capital something under 50 lakhs, is probably what I stated 'about 50 per cent.' As soon as this schedule was completed, I placed a copy of it in the hands of the Officiating Secretary, with a request that he would point out any errors it might contain.

"And he tells me that to substantiate it is correct."

Mixed up with this statement is a circular addressed by the Directors to the shareholders, advising that henceforward "no advances or loans shall be made upon the scrip of North-Western Bank, and that all parties who are at present indebted to the Bank, shall be offered the relief of encumbering their debts by surrendering up the shares so hypothecated to the Bank under a penal loss of 12 per cent." That is, the shareholders who have borrowed money on Bank shares, shall be released from their debts on giving up their shares, and 12 per cent. in addition. This resolution has, however, been fudged up for the present, as the majority of the shareholders appear fully to comprehend its injustice. If the market value of the shares be depressed to the extent alleged by Mr. Gubbins, it would be taking money from the pockets of the independent shareholders, to put it into those of the shareholders who have received loans on their hypothecated, or pawned scrip. We did hope that the danger and absurdity of a Bank's advancing money on its own shares had been so fully manifested in the Benares affair, that it would never again have been resorted to, but that nothing appears capable of teaching these Mofussil institutions wisdom.

Since these paragraphs were written we have received the *Magnificent* of the 27th December, containing a letter from Mr. Tandy, the officiating Secretary, to Mr. Gubbins, and a circular from the same gentleman to the shareholders as a body. These documents in our opinion completely exonerate Captain Blois from the charges brought against him by Mr. Gubbins, and the *Delhi Gazette*, but we have thought it more just to all parties to allow our summary of those charges to remain, and we now submit the following explanation. Instead of Capt. Blois having as stated above, delayed handing over his Oriental Bank shares, in payment of the reserved shares he had purchased in August, till the following February, it appears that he actually paid them on the very day that he received the reserved shares, as stated in the books of the Bank. Moreover, instead of making over these shares to Major Angelo in his private capacity, he merely sent them to him as a broker, intending that he, in his official capacity, should place them to the credit of the Bank. This is proved by Major Angelo's own entry in the Bank books, quoted by Mr. Tandy, and by a letter from Capt. Blois to Major Angelo. Major Angelo, according to the same authority, took the shares, and placed them to the credit of the North-west Bank on the books, but in reality retained them in his own hands, and received the dividends for his own advantage. The false entry of the Government notes, must have been effected in the same manner, and could not have been done without the consent and privy of Captain Blois, as that gentleman gained nothing whatever by the transaction. We can therefore fully acquit him of everything except the glaring absurdity of auditing, and declaring correct, accounts which he was evidently unable to understand.

THE RESIDENT AT INDORE.—Some little time ago we published a letter from Aurang, containing remarks on the conduct of the Indore Resident, which appeared to us to be written under the influence of consanguinity and mutual resentment. But while we felt it our duty, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, not to refuse it a place in our columns, we expressed our firm conviction that it was not entitled to public confidence, and that it could not possibly injure the individual against whom it was aimed. We have now received a letter from the gentlemen who are resident at Aurang, and who have furnished us with their names, with the assurance that the communication did not emanate from any of them. It must, therefore, have been falsely dated from that station, with the view of baffling any attempt to identify the writer, and we desire thus publicly to exonerate the Gentlemen residents at that station from all participation in that communication.

We submit the letter.

THE SIGNATURE OF THE INDORE INDIVIDUAL.

To the Editor of the Friend of India.

Sir,—A letter appeared in your paper of the 28th of this month, signed "A Friend of Justice," and dated from "Aurang, in Malabar," containing very severe remarks against both the Resident of Indore and the British Government.

As the residents at Aurang are very few in number and have no concern whatever with Indore politics, we are desirous that you should emphatically disclaim on our part any participation whatever in a letter so calculated as the one in question to make us the objects of misdeeds and paragoning injurious suspicion.

We give our names privately, and trust that for public purposes it will suffice to subserve ourselves.

THE RESIDENTS OF AURANG IN MALABAR.  
December 7, 1859.

HISTORY OF THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE BHAULAH ARMY BY CAPT. BROOME.—We now resume and complete our notice of this interesting and important publication.—At the period of Col. Clive's departure from India on the 25th of February, 1760, the only prospect of hostilities arose from the advances of the Shahzada towards Behar, but the prestige of his authority had been effectually broken by Clive's energy, and there was every hope of unbroken tranquillity. Before Clive's return on the 3d of May, 1760, we had been called to maintain our position in two campaigns, which, but for the special talents of the Commanders, must have proved, for the time, fatal to our empire. As the Court of Directors continued to refuse their sanction to the appointment of Col. Forde, as the commander of their forces, Col. Clive left the army at his departure in charge of Major Callaud, who marched from Moorshabad to repel the Shahzada with a small force, including 300 European Infantry, and accompanied by the army of the Nawabs, which consisted of 15,000 infantry and cavalry, and 25 guns. This eventful campaign, which is passed over cursorily by Mr. Thornton, that reader can form no idea of the variety of important events which were crowded into it, is given in the fullest detail by Capt. Broome. It promised at first to be altogether without interest, but events thickened rapidly after its commencement. Before Callaud could reach Patna, the Emperor was murdered at Delhi, and the Shahzada proclaimed himself of the river, he called upon all the feudatories to send forces to his assistance. He invaded Patna, and defeated Ramnarayan, but was, in his turn defeated by the English on their arrival. He then formed the bold project of giving Callaud the slip, and entering Bengal, and causing himself to be proclaimed Emperor at Moorshabad. But when he found our troops pressing on him as he marched down the banks of the river, he adopted the still bolder course of marching across the country through the unexplored jungles of the Hills, and emerging on the plains to the west of Moorshabad. The scene now became complicated. The emperor was advancing southwards to Burdwan with Col. Callaud at his heels; the Nabob of Feroze was again in arms; the Raja of Burdwan was rising, he was defeated, and a Mahadris force was advancing towards Bissunpore. Meer Jaffer marched out of Moorshabad.



all the details of their profession. Having thus reformed and reorganized the force under his command, he led them on, confident in their powers and resources, to glorious victory; whilst he taught them that great lessons in the art of war, and was distinguished from his ability of thought he was, levitated to engage the enemy with any numerical disadvantages where an object was to be gained.

The rapid succession of events which were crowded into these two years, appear to have stunned the Court of Directors. The disputes with Cossim Ali, the formidable preparations he made for meeting us in the field, the massacre of so many of the public servants, the mutiny of the troops, and the vast military responsibilities of a war which were so suddenly cast on the Court, naturally threw them into a state of alarm. In June 1766, the attention of the authorities in Leadenhall Street, was centred to the quality and the price of their piece goods, and the increase in the tonnage of salt-petre. In June 1764, they found themselves involved in hostilities with the Emperor and the Naloh Viceroy; their armies were in the field five hundred miles from their chief city, and their generals were engaged in campaigns upon which depended the fate of kingdoms. Though they had heard of Major Adams's success, they also heard of the massacre at Patna, and the subsequent disorganization of their troops on the banks of the Karmassassa. In this state of perplexity, and of confusion, they selected the man who had laid the foundation of their empire; and, though they entertained feelings of the strongest resentment for his previous insubordination, they brought him to proceed to Bengal and once more take charge of the government of the provinces. He sailed from England on the 4th of June 1764.

No opportunity was afforded for the display of Lord Clive's military talents in the field during the period of his second viceroyalty. The victories of Adams and Munro, had effectually extinguished all opposition between Calcutta and Barvelly, and Clive was enabled to apply his great mind to the arduous task of reforming abuses and improving the public establishments. It is difficult to conceive the difficulties he encountered in these efforts arose from the opposition of the officers of the army to the reduction of the batta, which the Court of Directors had peremptorily commanded. They resigned their commissions in a body, at a time when the Marathas were threatening an invasion. Any other man than Clive would have been appalled at the magnitude of the danger, but his mind always rose to a level with the emergency, and on this occasion, he exhibited all that coolness, determination and vigor by which he was so eminently characterized. The particulars of this transaction must be familiar to all those who have read the Histories of India, but in no work have we so clear, connected, and masterly a description of this series of remarkable events as in the work before us. Though it is professedly only a History of the Rise and Progress of the Bengal Army, it is in fact a History of the first ten years of the British empire in India, and it is by far the fullest, the most lucid, and the most comprehensive work on this subject ever published, and it is a boon to the public. It describes, with the pen of a soldier as well as of a scholar, the difficulties which we encountered in establishing ourselves as a Power in Bengal, the various enterprises in which we were engaged during this arduous period; the splendid exertions and the matchless success of the army which had been so suddenly created in Bengal, with their assistance or assistance; the brilliant achievements of Forde, of Adams and of Munro, who, together with Clive, laid the foundation of our military reputation at this Presidency, and paved the way for that progress which has converted the factory into an empire. It is to the pages of this history that we are indebted for the means of establishing a comparison between the military organizations of a later period, and those which marked the infancy of our power. It is from this volume that we are enabled to perceive that the achievements of our ill equipped armies during the ten years which it treats of, were fully equal to any of those which have distinguished our subsequent career, in whatever point of view we form our estimate of them. There can be no basis in affirming that no one who has not had an opportunity of perusing

the History we have now been reviewing, can be said to have any clear and definite comprehension of that marvelous series of events which gave us so firm and durable a footing in the country, and, as I calculated our power upon so solid a basis. The influence with which the work has been received by some of the journals in London only serves to exhibit their deplorable ignorance of the history of British India.

THE MINISTERS, DECEMBER 1850.—We have received the second number of this valuable publication, and are sincerely glad to find that the remarks which we made upon one or two passages in the first issue, have been responded to in a spirit of friendliness and courtesy. With regard to our query concerning the reason for omitting all mention of the long continued labours of Mr. Thompson, as a Missionary at Delhi, the Editor says, "we assure the *Friend of India*, with the frankness that he has shown to us that we wish simply to follow the rule, 'who art thou that judgest another man's service? To his own Master he standeth or falleth.' This is the spirit which ought invariably to prevail in literary discussion, and it is doubly valuable when a mixture of the theological elements tends to give authority to the argument. One of the most interesting articles in the present number, announces the completion of the Bengalee translation of the Book of Common Prayer, which is intended to supersede the former version. We have not yet seen the new translation, but we remember that the old one contained some singular errors, more particularly in the first part. We hope the translation has followed the advice of the writer in the *Bengalee Magazine*, and omitted the prayers for the 'Martyrs,' and those for the fifth of November, which are unintelligible and useless to the Natives of this country. The account of Robert Boyle, and of the proposed Delhi Mission is also interesting, and the publication presents a new feature in the shape of queries on religious subjects to which the attention of correspondents is invited. The question put in this number is, 'Is there any man in Bengal or Sanscrit, giving the idea of Ransom or redemption?' The popular word used to express this term literally means Deliverance, but it does not appear to embrace the idea of any equivalent payment.

#### WEEKLY EPIPHONE OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25.

—We need with deep regret the death of Mr. Clifford, C. S., which occurred at Agra, on the 23rd December, under peculiarly unhappy circumstances. The deceased was on riding when he was thrown from his horse, and the violence of his fall injured his brain. A total paralysis of the lower limbs succeeded the accident, but it was expected that his life would be preserved, though all hope of recovery had vanished. On the above date, however, he was released from suffering.

A General Order of the 10th December, places Major Cantley at the disposal of the Government for employment on the Hyderabad and Tibet Road.

—The *Bengalee Times* mentions that an "oxyrhodon manuscript" purchased by the Government of Gujarat, at an expense of Rs. 1,500, has recently arrived in Bombay, and will be exhibited to the inhabitants of that Presidency. The young oxrhodon of Gujarat, appears to have profited in no small degree by the instructions of his tutors, and we hope to find him grasping the same theoretical to scientific enquiry, which has been given by the Rajah of Travancore and some other Indian potentates. It would be curious to compare the views which Indian and civil-civilized monarchs to spend their resources in purchasing astronomy, optics, and the more recent sciences, rather than those improvements in mechanics, which can alone be relied on either to increase their revenues, or the prosperity of their subjects.

—The *Singapore Free Press* of the 22nd November, lately received, states that the Editor has before him five daily copies of a publication, entitled *San Francisco*, and that two more are issued in the town of Sacramento. The mineral resources of California, he it is said, scarcely begin to be developed, inasmuch as, besides the amount of gold already discovered, there are rich mines of copper, gold-silver, and diamonds, the location of which are well known, though the superior strata of the gold mines will long prevent any work from working them. Extensive coal beds have also been discovered, which will give a new impetus to the mining, and an iron custom house at San Francisco has arrived from Liverpool. A cargo of tea had arrived from Calcutta, and has been unfortunately received. California is destined to give an impetus even to the most trivial trades.

—The *Bombay Journals* mention that the friends of Sir Willoughby Cotton, Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Presidency, intend to give Sir Willoughby a farewell dinner on the 31st December. Contrary to the usual custom, the party will be invited. The *Early News* says, that Sir Willoughby Cotton's successor, Sir John, has lost the use of his limbs, and will be confined to his bed for some time. A statement which must, we should think, be either erroneous or exaggerated.

—The *Bengalee Times* reports that so great is now the demand for the articles manufactured at Jubbulpore, that the Thugs are obliged to keep on working till ten o'clock at night: an additional labour to which they cheerfully submit. We recently saw a consignment of table cloths and towels from Jubbulpore, which were almost, if not quite, equal to those of European manufacture. The *Bengalee Times* remarks with justice that the skill and ability of the Superintendent, Mr. Williams, is deserving of some better reward than his present paltry allowance of Rupees 150 a month. We were not aware that a public servant who had done so much for the interests of Government and the community was kept on this disgracefully inadequate pay. Why, he does as much in a day as the Quarter Master (titular of the Queen's troops) does in a twelve month, and receives about one-twelfth his allowance!

—The purveyors of good things in Calcutta have originated a new method of advertising in the shape of a good humoured squabble for precedence. The *Hackers* in a ludicrously glib way, have been engaged to write a notice on the establishment of a deputation which "Dainty Dave" indignantly repudiates. He claims the honour of having been the first to supercede the "luscious creations" of the other party, by the long array of good things, under all sorts of English and French names, which so frequently makes their appearance in the advertising columns of the *Bengalee Times*. Perhaps it is not unworthy of record that our contemporaries do not appear to have received any cakes this year—which is perfectly unaccountable; for a puff on Christmas morning must be worth twenty cakes.

—As a system, we read all quotations or notices of newspaper poetry, but the following effusion, inserted in a *Long Letter* from Moulineux, and published by the Calcutta *Morning Chronicle* is far too rich a specimen of the genius of young Moulineux to be omitted:—

"LETTER ADDRESSED TO A POOL."

It is hard to listen to folly,  
It is harder to listen to them  
When you know that they are the tools  
Of that weapon called flattery.  
Commit reason to them is a bore  
They can credit the blarney which is  
Imperial truth on the sandy shore  
The next tide will efface it quite.  
The brain of the fool is the sand,  
Flattery is the wildest war,  
Which dilutes with its hand  
The truth on that treacherous ground."

There is a quiet humour in the above *sermon*, alluding to the *page* of the shore, which surpasses the finest efforts of Alfred Tennyson. The following sentence by the same writer is equally exquisite as a specimen of vigorous prose:—"Oh, if the Bengal Government would only listen, would only enquire into the state and heart of the Moulineux Commission. What would be the result? There would be a clear sweep—and the Province would see its drooping hand. Positively, there are only two gentlemen in the commission at present and those are Captain Benmore and Sharp, who are fit to be in it." Indeed.

A forcible illustration of the mode in which the expenses of the Government are now times increased, has been afforded by a General Order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Presidency. This Order is directed against a practice which has prevailed in the Madras Presidency of ordering from England articles of military equipment, Saddlery, &c. in the name of the Regimental Agent, the cost of the same being quadrupled a head and charged in its account. The object of such a practice is of course to enable individual officers to obtain supply through the Mess Agent, without the trouble and expense of an Agency at home, and the effect is to increase the apparent expenditure of any Indian Army. There is an unreasonable element. The whole system of Messes seems to require revision. The institution, with all the elements of good in it, appears to be working ill.

—The *Bengalee Times* says, with the following statistical detail of the resources and expenditure of the Asiatic Society of that Presidency:—"In 1849 the Society numbered 120 members, of whom 49 were of the naval and military and 45 of the civil service. The next year it numbered 105 native gentlemen. The cost of the books purchased amounted to Rs. 148, periodicals Rs. 90, Indian newspapers Rs. 500,—in all Rs. 738. The expenses for management and printing were Rs. 4000. To meet this there were the subscriptions of 92 resident members at Rs. 100 each, and 98 non-resident members at Rs. 50 each,—in all Rs. 10,380. The sum of Rs. 10,380 was the sum of Rs. 10,380, liabilities deducted, in favor of the Society Rs. 2800, leaving to complete this statement with the accounts of the Asiatic Society of Bengal for 1850.

The Hydrabad correspondence of the *Bengalee Times*



Calcutta Dec. 20th. Passenger for





**native communities**

EUROPE

**RELIGIOUS EXTORTION.**—A correspondent of the Times writes:—"An advertisement appeared in the Times last week, in which a pious religious service to take place to-day in St. George's Catholic church, Southwark. At eleven o'clock, accompanied by friends, I left my home, and I paid the usual subscription. I was exposed, I put in 1s., and was about to pass, when the following dialogue took place:—'What is the price of admission to the service in 1s. each.' Answer: 'I have this 1s. in the same manner.' 'And you are not, and is, therefore, illegal. Are there no free attendants?' Answer: 'Yes, for the poor.' Answer: 'Then we will not allow you to pass through this doorway to any part of the cathedral till you have paid 1s. each.' All other comers were in the same manner. Another quarter of an hour, our admission was telegraphed by an official notice, who, I suppose, considered us proof against the extortion. Upon obtaining entrance, a priest was again

### MISCELLANEOUS.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

**BALLOONING.**—Mr. Kirsch, the aeronaut, left his camp at 10 o'clock this morning, and ascended very slowly on a balloon to the height of 100 feet. He then turned in a horizontal direction. Mr. Kirsch, observing that the balloon would strike against some tall trees that are known to be in his way, turned out all his ballast, the ground being very sandy, and, in the meantime, he and part of his clothing, and even a rabbit, which he had intended to let fall with the parachute. The balloon was after moments rapidly, taking the direction of Buckner's creek. Considerable anxiety prevailed on the following day, as to the fate of Mr. Kirsch, as he had not yet been heard of.

**A New LOCOMOTIVE.**—A new engine, imported from plans of Messrs. McConochie and Claude, of this town, at the establishment of Forrester and Co., was brought on Thursday last on the Liverpool, Crosby, and Fomport Railway. The principal improvement we understand to be the placing of inside cylinders behind the leading wheels, in connection with outside valve gear and piston rods, thus doing away entirely with the crowding together of these delicate and important parts of the machinery underneath the boiler, as in the present engines, where it is not inaccessible to the engineer and cleaner. The weight

of the engine is about fifteen tons, of which nine tons are upon the driving and six tons on the leading wheels. On the trial trip she took a train of carriages from Waterbury to Southampton with great velocity, and returned again in twenty minutes, being at the rate of forty and a-half miles an hour. The engine is now being employed in the construction of the line for five miles, and will have run sixty miles in one hour. The cost of the engine does not exceed 1,800*l*. Several scientific gentlemen and others connected with the railways were present during the trial. —*Liverpool Mercury* and *Standard*.

**TURKEY.**—M. Pinelli, special agent of Napoleon, has been sent to the court of Rome, arrived on the morning of the 21st of Florence. He quitted Rome on the 7th. —*Patrie*.

Oct. 21.

M. GIOBERTI, formerly Minister of Charles Albert, arrived yesterday in Paris. He has had interviews with some of the leading politicians, and it is believed, with one or two members of the Government. M. Gioberti gives some curious details about the dissension between the Papal and Sardinian Governments. He is understood, however, to believe in the probability of a settlement, and before long of the question that has divided the two Governments.

**THE FIRST SIR ROBERT PEEL** left his eldest son about 21,000*l.* a year in land, and about 400,000*l.* in money. The late baronet laid out very large sums in improving his inherited estate, as well as in buying more land, and when he died he left a large property worth not much under 35,000*l.* a year. The entailed portion which descended to the present baronet, is alone estimated at about 27,000*l.* a year. The personals including plate, pictures, library, and leasehold, were sworn under 500,000*l.* The free-simple of the land, taken at three per cent. amounts to 1,200,000*l.* which, at the same rate, amounts to 36,000*l.* a year; so that full three-fourths of the property he left by the baronet was land.—*Ibid.*

LY another portion of our columns will be found a letter upon the subject of Mr. M. D. Hill's recent charge to the grand jury at Birmingham. We have so fully discussed the subject, and so amply explained the reasons of our position, that we deem it unnecessary that it will not be necessary for us here to re-open the matter at any length. From respect for the character and reputation of the Recorder of Birmingham, we will not, however, pass over without notice the arguments that may be adduced in favour of his proposition. The letter in question is a specimen of the kind of reasoning that is so open war against all that numerous class of suspicious character who, by the absence of any evident means of subsistence, by the general idleness and supposed criminality of their conduct, may be presumed to be engaged in some kind of secret and dangerous enterprise. It is, in some respects, almost, peculiar to some individuals, a sort of crime.

[illegible][illegible]

We object, then, to Mr. Hill's plan, not only because it is, in our opinion, after the manner of the guillotine, but also because it is intended to establish a theory of guilt, and a theory of criminal jurisprudence, which could at any time be used as the humblest plagues of our countrymen with fearful effect. The writer of the letter which we print to-day appears to be of opinion that Mr. Hill has gone too far, and we confine the operations of the proposed system to persons who are guilty of crimes, and not to persons who are innocent. Alas! in one conviction to justify a second. In a third, to be twice punished, if not actually, for the same offence, *non accensum ad eundem eundem*? The tyrannical *police surveillance* on the continent of Europe would

[illegible]

from the Green Exhibition of 1961, which, after a long period of the rains from November to January, was a day of sun, rain, and a little snow. The exhibition was held in a large hall, and the weather was very good. The exhibition was held in a large hall, and the weather was very good. The exhibition was held in a large hall, and the weather was very good.

**SALE OF GLASTONBURY ABBEY AND ESTATE.**

[illegible]

[illegible]

**POLITICAL SUMMARY.**—The Neumayer affair in France seems to have blown over. That General declines, indeed, the sinister preferment offered him, thereby continuing his protest against the Imperialist demonstrations at Satory. His successor in the command of

The Schleswig-Holstein Stadthaltertschaft express their readiness to propose an armistice for twelve months, provided that the Danish Government will consent to withdraw its troops beyond the line of demarcation fixed by the preliminaries of peace of the 10th of July, 1849.—*Patriot*, November 4.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS

ORDERS BY THE HONORABLE THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF  
NEWJAL.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to confirm the following Regimental Orders issued by Lieutenant G. Browne, 2d in Command, and Officiating Commandant 3d Punjab Cavalry, dated the 6th October, 1890:

at their Office.







Grady, Catherine. 67

FRUSON, STUART AND CO., OPTICIANS, CAMBRIDGE.

1. California, October, 1944.





# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

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Price 2 Cts. No. monthly or 20  
Rs. yearly if paid in advance.

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL BY ROAD.  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 3d of the ensuing Month of February for the departure of the next *Resam* therefrom, with a Mail for *Bute*—Noting that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Thursday, the 28th instant, and that the first set of the *Overland Packets* will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Tuesday, the 21st idem.

J. H. BURTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, 4th January, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donations:—

For Mrs. Jackson.	
A Friend and Admirer of the late Dr. Judson.	30 0
W. Mackenzie, Esq.	12 6
G. Turnbull, Esq.	10 0
G. Kinder, Esq.	10 0
Rev. J. MacCallum.	10 0

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Mail of the 25th November arrived in Calcutta on the 4th instant, after a protracted voyage of 40 days. Almost the entire interest of this Mail centres in the movement to resist Papal aggression, which is now agitating the length and breadth of England. The Press, almost without exception, has expressed itself strongly against the nomination of a Catholic hierarchy, owing obedience to a foreign potentate, and the people are enthusiastic in the cause. Both the Archbishops, and all the Bishops, not excepting even Dr. Philpotts, have issued charges and admonitions to their clergy on the great danger which they believe menaces Protestantism, and almost every Parish in England is preparing to send addresses to the Queen and the Premier. The populace in several towns have shown their feelings by burning in effigy the figures of the Pope and Cardinal, and the Cathedral city of Exeter exhibited a procession on the 5th of November which exceeded in size and costliness even the "Guy" paid for by the Stock Exchange. A private letter informs us that the effigies, and bonfire made on that occasion, cost no less than five hundred pounds. Another procession was got up also at Plymouth, at an expense almost equal to it. The Roman Catholic organs, on the other hand, are loud in denouncing the clamor that has been raised, and the Irish journals are particularly rabid against Lord John Russell, and his famous letter to the Bishop of Durham. Meanwhile Cardinal Wiseman has published his Appeal to the people of England, a document distinguished by even more than his usual force and sarcastic eloquence. He re-asserts distinctly that the arrangement of the Pope for the distribution of England into Roman Catholic sees was shown by his Holiness to Lord Minto, and he directs some cutting sarcasms against the present condition of portions of the Established church, and pointedly alludes to the misery and depravity of the districts lying around Westminster Abbey. Neither His Eminence's reasonings nor his sarcasms, however, will convince the English Protestants that the proverbially far-sighted Cuff of Rome, has ventured upon a movement which they must have known would excite the strongest demonstrations of anti-papal feeling, without some object of more importance than the creation of a titular hierarchy. We sincerely hope, that the result of all this will be, not the revival or enactment of any penal laws against either

Roman Catholics or their spiritual advisers, but the re-invigoration of that sound and earnest Protestant feeling, which has been so grievously unfleeced by the squabbles about surplices, and candles, and communion tables. Many who had been misled by the idea that the Church of Rome had become milder and less intolerant, with the general progress of enlightenment, and who had been almost seduced by that belief to join her communion, have now received proofs which cannot be mistaken of their unchanged character, and have withdrawn themselves with a shudder from the precipice on which they stood.

All other topics seem to have been so completely swallowed up in the no Popery cry, that there is scarcely any English intelligence left us to record. The Great Exhibition advances rapidly towards completion, the trunk of the edifice has been nearly finished, and the contractors have even commenced fixing portions of the glass work. The building is progressing at the rate of 90 feet a day, and it is now certain that it will be completed by the stipulated time, unless some unforeseen calamity should occur. The new idea of the applicability of glass has taken a strong hold on the public mind, and Mr. Paxton is already making designs for a gentleman's house to be covered entirely with that material, and expects to see it generally adopted, instead of lead. The idea of retaining the building for an Exhibition imperitively, is also becoming popular, and there is little doubt that it will remain long after the approaching collection has been dispersed. Arrangements for the supply of refreshments have already been made, and it is announced that no intoxicating liquor of any description will be allowed within the walls. To crown all these preparations, we have the first stray inkling of the numbers who will be gathered together, in the fact that 10,000 persons have booked themselves in New York alone, for a passage across the Atlantic for the occasion. The Post Laureate'ship has been filled up, by the appointment of Alfred Tennyson to the vacant post. At the inauguration of the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Musgrove, on the 9th of November, the pageant, instead of the usual knights and armed men,—the standing ridicule of the wits,—was composed of allegorical figures representing the industry of various nations, and in the midst was exhibited a camel, an elephant and two American deer.

The aspect of political affairs in France has suddenly changed since the publication of the President's "Message." This document, which is nearly as long as one of Mr. Polk's, breathes a spirit of quiet forbearance, and of steadfast determination to adhere to the constitution, and it has gone far to quiet the minds of the people. It describes the effective land forces of France as amounting to 396,000 men, with 87,400 horses, or nearly thirty thousand men less than the number under arms in 1849; a still further reduction is contemplated. The fleet is composed of 125 ships, manned by 22,561 men, and the President speaks with just pride of the admiration excited by their appearance and discipline when reviewed at Cherbourg. After a general allusion to the politics of the continent, and the position occupied by France, the President proceeds to

speak of the necessity for a revision of the constitution, which he leaves wholly in the hands of the National Assembly. The document has added greatly to the popularity of the President, and appears likely to strengthen his hands greatly at the approaching election of 1852.

The final result of the series of movements in Germany appears to be still as far beyond the reach even of conjecture, as it has been during the last two years. The menacing attitude assumed by Austria in the affairs of Schleswig Holstein and Hesse Cassel, induced the Prussian Government to make extraordinary efforts on the opposite side. The whole military force of Prussia was called out, but the influence of the peace party, headed by Count Brandenburg, prevailed, the War Minister Count Radowitz, was dismissed, and the troops fell back, narrowly escaping collision with the Austrians. The sudden death of Count Brandenburg has however again inspired the war party, and it appears now almost certain that war will be declared. England, however, according to a semi-official article in the *Times*, will take no part on either side, and we fear that Prussia, unless supported by France, will not be able to resist the combined weight of Austria and Russia.

There is but little intelligence from America, and that little refers chiefly to the agitation on the fugitive Slave Bill. The people of the State of New York, and of some of the great towns, have declared that while they dislike the new Bill, they will reverence the Laws, and compel the abolitionists to do the same. It has been definitively announced that a temporary Billway across the Isthmus of Panama, will be finished before the Isthmus of Panama. The Atlantic will be opened in 1852, and that the transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific will be effected in six hours. An attempt had been made to turn the Isthmus into an independent little Republic, but it had not succeeded for the time.

A report was rife in England, that the Marquis of Normandy, at present Ambassador at Paris, will be the next Governor General of India, but it does not appear to be based on any official grounds, though by no means improbable in itself, if the Whigs remain in. The retirement of Mr. Lyall from the Court of Directors is expected, and this event will bring in Mr. Marjoribanks of Coutts's House, a son-in-law of Sir James Hogg. We must not forget to mention that Mr. Alison, the Tory Historian, has been elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University. Lord Gough has been canvassing at the India House for the appointment of his son-in-law, Lieut. Col. Grant, to the vacant Governorship of Aden, but has not signally failed. The Directors seem to think that he has had enough for his services. That post will, according to the most authentic reports, be conferred on Sir George Pollock.

**THE PETITION OF THE HINDOOS AGAINST THE LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE ACT** has now appeared in all the papers. It is of unexceptionable length. It occupies no less than eight feet five inches and a half of the *Englishman's* columns. It is evidently written by some educated Hindoo who considers that the length of the memorial will make up for the weakness of the case. It is, moreover, as deficient in discretion,

as it is prolix and weak in its arguments. While the writer professes simply to ask the Court of Directors to maintain the Hindoo religion in all its integrity, he deals in the most unqualified and ill-judged abuse of the Missionaries, and describes them as in the highest degree illiberal, persecuting and intolerant. That which was intrinsically and incurably weak in itself, has been rendered still weaker by the rabid animosity which the writer exhibits against the Missionaries. He so far forgets the dictates of prudence and propriety as to taunt the Government, while invoking its consideration, with having sanctioned an Act against the religion of the Hindoos which it would not have dared to pass, if there had been "strong native powers now ruling the Mysore, the Nizam's Territories and the Mahratta States; if the Oude Territories, Malwa, Gwalior and the Punjab had been yet unsubdued;" totally forgetting that the Mahomedans, whom he describes as a fierce persecuting sect of religionists, and who ruled in Mysore and the Decan, and in Oude, would certainly not have raised any objection to any such Act. But it would be a needless task to recount all the anomalies of this petition.

The Acts against which the petition is directed, do not in the smallest degree interfere with the profession or the practice of the Hindoo religion. They do not prevent the rich Baboos building temples and endowing them, or spending lakhs of Rupees in feeding brahmins, or in the performance of any rite whatever of the Hindoo religion. They simply ordain that a Hindoo lauded proprietor who follows the dictates of his own conscience and embraces Christianity, or Mahomedanism, or any other than his ancestor's creed, shall not be immediately stripped of all his property and turned out of his house and home, as a beggar, and that a son who changes his religion shall not forfeit his inheritance. They abrogate the persecuting laws which fenced the profession of Hindooism. The Memorialists declare that the abolition of those laws of the Hindoo code, is "a reckless violation of all that is dear and sacred to every sincere Hindoo;" that it is "an invasion upon their religion, and the ancient and accustomed exercise of its most sacred duties;" that the law which reduces to beggary every man who forsakes the Hindoo religion is one of "the principles on which that religion is founded, and on which for centuries ago it has rested;" that the new Acts which establish Liberty of Conscience throughout India, is "an odious law, an insult to the religion of a large portion of the Native British subjects; and that it is a festering sore which will for ever rankle in the blood of every sincere Hindoo." We have the most perfect confidence in the veracity of those representations. There can be no doubt that to persecute an apostate, and to strip every man of his property who ventures to forsake the creed of his ancestors, is among the most "sacred duties" of Hindooism; and that the loss of this power of persecuting those who may embrace Christianity, will for ever rankle in the breast of every sincere Hindoo. The question, therefore, which the British authorities at home have to decide, is, whether this intolerant and infuriated bigotry, is to be the rule and directory of their conduct in India, in the middle, of the nineteenth century.

The Memorialists deals in some glaring inaccuracies which are important to expose. The writer has asserted in several places that the "religious and legal rights," which he says, the new Act infringes, were originally granted by Act of Parliament. But the fact is, that the first time these rights were ever made the subject of legis-

lation, or even thought of, was in the first year of Mr. Hastings's Administration, in 1772, when he was constructing an administration out of the chaos around him, and in the midst of a world of difficulties, set down to sketch out the rough draft of a code of laws for Bengal. "Necessity compelled us," said he, "to form some establishment of Justice. We had not a lawyer among us; we chose the best code we could, and if this shall not be found so perfect as more time and knowledge might have made it, it is yet capable of receiving improvement, and is a good foundation for a more complete system of judicature." It was in this crude and hasty collection of rules that the law was for the first time introduced, that the Hindoo shastras, should regulate the decision of cases regarding Hindoo inheritance. The rule appeared so just and equitable, at a time when the unjust and persecuting penal enactments of those shastras were not known, that it was subsequently incorporated in the Act of Parliament, and adopted by Lord Cornwallis twenty years after.

The shortest and simplest answer to the petition of the Memorialists, is, that the Act for the establishment of Liberty of Conscience throughout India, against which they remonstrate, does not in smallest degree affect them. It simply extends to other Presidencies the same liberal and equitable law which has been in force in Bengal and Behar for eighteen years. The Memorialists have the effrontery—we really cannot say by no other name—to affirm that the clause was "superstitiously inserted into the Regulation (VII. of 1832.) totally foreign to the subject matter of the said clause, and that the nature of it was thereby practically and unfairly concealed from those who were affected by it; and that, in consequence, it has been a dead letter." Nothing can be more utterly unfounded than this assertion. This liberal provision was introduced into our code in conjunction with the great, important and highly valued change which Lord William Bentinck made in our judicial system. His great Act—V. of 1831—threw the judicial system open to the natives, and Act VII. of the next year contained Supplementary Rules to that enactment, and it was among these Supplementary Rules that this provision was inserted (in Sects. 5 and 6.) Lord William appears to have availed himself of the auspicious occasion of his bestowing on the Natives the greatest boon which they had received from the British Government, to abrogate the persecuting enactments of the Hindoo shastras, and to establish Liberty of Conscience by law throughout the Bengal Presidency. The Hindoos, in the intoxication of their gratitude for this magnificent gift, which threw the cognizance of civil suits into their hands, and conferred such dignity and power on them, willingly accepted the new principle of Religious Freedom which accompanied it. Lord William Bentinck appears to have designly placed this new rule in that conspicuous position among our laws in which it was most sure to attract the attention of the Native community. No two Acts are better known throughout Bengal, or have been more extensively read, and more diligently studied, than the two Acts in one of which this clause is inserted. If it had been foisted into a Bill or an Optum regulation, the Memorialists might have had some reason for their assertion; but they must have a strange notion of our gullibility, when they state that the new law was unfairly concealed from them, when it stared them in the face in an Act which every man interested in a law suit must necessarily read. Neither would it be difficult to show that it was not foreign

to the subject matter of that clause, but most intimately connected with it. The Memorialists pray that "if Section 9 of Regulation VII. of 1832,"—which established religious liberty in Bengal—"be now in force as a part of the Code, and has the theoretical effect which the Indian Government appear to suppose it to have, and is capable of application to the Hindoos of Bengal, it may be repealed forthwith." This is one of the most amusing specimens of oriental artifice that we have seen for some time, but it will decide only the Memorialists. They know as well as we do that the law in question provided in the clearest manner that no man should be deprived of his property on changing his creed; that it was intended to establish Liberty of Conscience throughout the Presidency; they know that this law has been in full force for eighteen years; they know that it is still in full force; and they will now learn that it is not the intention of the Court to repeal it.

We have only one word more to add on the subject. This is not the "first insult" upon the integrity of the Hindoo laws, as the Memorialists have ventured to assert. Such insults have heretofore been unreservedly made on Hindoo law and Hindoo practice, whenever they were found to be inconsistent with the principles of justice and humanity. The last insult before the present, was the abolition of Suttee; and the Memorialists cut away their argument with their own hatchet, when they affirm, that the rite of Suttee, which Government abolished in 1829, was "certainly looked upon by the great majority of Hindoos, as enjoined by their Shastras." They affirm moreover that the Mahomedans are "a fierce proselyting sect of religionists; with them, defection from their religion by one who ever professed it, is a crime. An apostate thereby forfeited all his property, and his life also, if he did not return to it in four days." The new Act declares that no Mahomedan who forsakes his creed shall lose his property, yet no Mahomedan has joined the Hindoos in their opposition to it. Neither have "the warlike Hindoos of Upper India," united in this agitation. It is confined to those whom the Memorialists describe as "the industrious, trading, peaceful Hindoos of Bengal proper," and they have been living under the law of toleration and religious liberty, against which they now remonstrate, for eighteen years, without a murmur, and even now, it has required eight whole months since the last Act was passed, to get up this Memorial, and to stump up Mr. Leitch's Fee. The Hindoos of Calcutta may possibly consider it a matter of "honor," *however*, to enter their protest against the law, and in this point of view we can easily understand the Memorial; but they may be assured that it will meet with the same fate as the Suttee petition, and that they themselves will soon be as much reconciled to the one as they have become to the other.

**HYDRABAD AND THE NIZAM.**—The period fixed for the payment of the sum due by the Nizam to the British Government, which amounts to about Seventy lakhs of Rupees, has now expired, and we look with deep interest to the movements which may grow out of it. According to the latest information from the Decan, there was no hope that the Nizam would be enabled to obtain funds to meet the demand. He had been for some time employed in squeezing the sponge of his feudatories, in which the revenues of his territories have been to so large an extent absorbed, but the drops he was enabled to obtain, were altogether insufficient for the occasion, and even they have been wasted, instead of being husbanded. It is

affirmed, and upon good authority, that the Resident has been instructed to withdraw from his functions on the 1st of January, if the payment be not made good; and his retirement would be tantamount to a dissolution of the feeble Government of the Nizam. Some immediate arrangement must be made to meet the crisis, and we believe it to be the general opinion that he will be under the necessity of making a cession of territory; and popular rumour points out the districts of Berar, which are the most fertile and productive in his principality, as those which the British Government will take over. It is impossible to regard the visit of the Madras Commander-in-Chief to these provinces, and the ostentatious exhibition of the Contingent force, narrated in the papers, in any other light than as a demonstration of our power to crush any attempt at opposition. It must be self evident that even if Government were disposed to extend the period of indulgence, the cession of territory for debt must be the eventual result of this transaction. It is not perhaps altogether improbable, that the Nizam may at once offer to throw the country into the hands of the English, rather than consent to an arrangement, which cannot fail to impair his dignity, and cripple his future resources: If this should be the case, it is sincerely to be hoped that the British Government will take him at his word, and forthwith relieve him from those political duties to which he is so totally unequal, and place him in the position of a pensioned prince. He would enjoy more real happiness than he has ever yet done if he were exonerated from the cares and anxieties of state, and left in the undisturbed enjoyment of an income adequate to his wants and his pleasures. The country would thus be relieved from those exactions to which it is now subject by the weakness of the Nizam, and the rapacity of his officers, and we should have an opportunity of dispersing the hordes of Arabs and other adventurers, who now keep the Deccan in constant jeopardy. Under the influence of our institutions, this noble province would soon attain its full measure of fertility, and present the smiling aspect of industry and security.

**THE CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITY FUND.**—The *Bombay Times* of the 25th of December, publishes a Memorial to the Court of Directors which has been adopted by a large majority of the Bombay Civil Service and forwarded to Leadenhall Street. We are unable to make room for it in our limited columns, but as the subject is one of deep interest to the members of the Service at this Presidency, we shall present a brief analysis of it. The Memorialists state that the Fund has now been in operation for twenty-five years, but that "the objects enumerated in the scheme have not been attained in practice; that the mortality and resignations have been greater than was contemplated, and the retirements have been less." The Court has stated in their letter that "the utility of an annuity fund must materially depend upon the inducement afforded by it to old servants to retire." They calculated that 75 Annuities would have been taken during the period of a quarter of a century in which the Fund has been in operation; but there have actually been only 52 retirements, including 60 on £1000 per annum, 5 on the smaller annuities, and 2 on the old fund of £400. Thus "while the Hon. Court has not incurred the charge that was expected, and which it was prepared to meet, the Service has not derived that amount of advantage from the Fund which was held out to it."

By making the pension of £500 granted by Government, dependent, not on twenty-five years' service, but on the subscriber's having been able to provide for an annuity of an equal amount, the Court of Directors save 18 pensions of £500 value annually, or £9000 a year, and promotion is proportionately retarded. The Memorialists also maintain that a "Member who has drawn an average amount of salary, as at present ruling in the Civil Service, during 22 years' actual service, with 3 years' absence on furlough, will have paid, on retiring at the age of 45, in accumulated subscriptions, risk and fine, for an annuity of from £590 to £800, whereas he will receive only £300 from the fund. We believe this calculation will be fully borne out by the most experienced actuaries; and that apart from the anomalous constitution of the Fund, the members of the Civil Service have reason to complain that they are obliged to pay a far higher amount for their annuity of £500 a year, than it is worth in the market, and are at the same time kept out of the pension which they are entitled to, until this supererogatory amount is made good."

The Memorialist further dwells on the fact that the Bombay servant is not on an equal footing with his fellow civilian of Bengal. The Court originally calculated that the accumulated value of a subscriber's contribution, for the whole period of 25 years, would average Rs. 38,876, and that the sum which he would be required to pay up by way of what is called "a fine,"—that is, to complete the sum of 50,000 Rs.—would be Rs. 11,073. But the Memorialists represent that while the average amount of accumulated subscriptions of members in Bengal who have completed 25 years' service, is Rs. 39,133, the Bombay average, owing to the smaller amount of their allowances, is only 23,793 Rs. They state that the Honourable Court could never have anticipated, at the formation of the Fund that there would be "this great and glaring disparity between two branches of the Civil Service of India, a service governed by the same rules, entrusted identically with the same powers and responsibilities, and the members of which are for the most part, filling offices of the same designation, and duties." The consequence of this disparity of allowances is, that "on the 1st of May last there were *Ten* unappropriated annuities, independent of the eight which lapsed to the Fund under the temporary quarter value system." The members of the Bengal Civil Service are accustomed to express their dissatisfaction at the slowness of promotion in their ranks, and the deteriorated value of their appointments, but they will perceive from this Memorial that they are living in clover, when compared with their brethren on the other side of the Peninsula. We are at a loss, however, to conceive how it can be made out that the amount of subscriptions in Bengal which has been paid by the Civilian of 25 years' standing amounts to the sum of Rs. 39,133. We feel confident that the aggregate of subscriptions paid by those whose period of twenty-five years' service will be completed within the next ten years, will not be found to amount to any thing approaching this sum. We have now before us a letter from a Civilian of Ten years' standing, in which he informs us that the whole amount which he has paid up, by the usual deduction of four per cent. from his allowances, does not exceed 2,900 Rs.

The Bombay Memorialists therefore express a hope that the Honourable Court, will, in conformity with what appears to have been their original design, grant their Civil Servants a fixed pension of £500 per annum, after the com-

pletion of 25 years' service, and independent of the value of the contributions of the Subscriber, who should be left at liberty to pay up the Fine, as at present, or accept, in addition to the above fixed pension, such annuity as may be equivalent to the amount of his contributions, by subscription, to the Fund." This is the conclusion to which the Court must eventually come, if not before the termination of the Charter, certainly after it has been renewed, should that be the case. The present system by which the Civilian is obliged to wait for his pension till he has completed the purchase of an annuity of equal value, is so extremely anomalous, that it is difficult to discover any reason for its having been perpetuated to the present time. In every other department of the public service the pension is independent of any annuity, and it is given after a fixed period of service. In the Civil Service, the enjoyment of the pension, by one of the strangest rules which has ever been framed, is not to be given to any man until he can show that he is entitled to an annuity of 500*l.* a year. This operates unjustly on many of the Civilian in Bengal, and upon all those at Bombay. The plain and obvious, and common sense course, is to give every man his pension, as soon as it becomes due by twenty-five years' service, and to let him retire, at once, with whatever amount of annuity his subscriptions may entitle him to. It is a Civilian content with an annuity of £350 a year, why should the Court tell him that he shall not be at liberty to take it, and force him to remain till he has made it £500, by withholding his pension till this be done.

#### STEAM COMMUNICATION.—THE ECONOMIST.

The *Economist* has published a long article on this most interesting subject, and endeavored to show that it is the Court of Directors who are chargeable with having obstructed the establishment of Steam communication with Australia; but he has not shown what connection there was between the route from Singapore to Sydney, and that from Bombay to Suez. That journal,—being under the influence of the Secretary to the Board of Control,—echoes the opinion of the Ministry; but certainly not the voice of reason and equity. The Court of Directors only did their duty in objecting to a sudden and premature termination of their engagements regarding the Bombay line, to suit the views of those who were desirous of securing an entire monopoly of all steam communication in the East. Whatever may be said on the subject, it is as clear as noon day that if the line between Singapore and Australia had been given to the Peninsular Company, it would have become indispensably necessary to continue to them the other end of the line, from Southampton to Singapore, when their old contract expired. That Company acted indiscreetly in not waiting for the Bombay bit, till it became available by effluxion of time. Had they not aimed at this line also, they might at once have secured them from Singapore to the Australian group, and this would have placed them on high vantage ground for demanding a renewal of their present contract from Suez to the various ports in the East. It seems strange to lay the blame of this obstruction on those, who simply asked the Ministry to respect the arrangements to which they were pledged, when it ought rather to be ascribed to those who insisted upon the Court's giving up their contract before it expired, that they might enter on it. The *Economist* seems to think that we have only to give the contract to the P. and O. Company to be sure of obtaining every thing that could be desired. "The object of the Compa-

ny" says he, "would be to secure the renewal of the contract, and therefore their object would be to deserve it." Now the present is the very time in which it must be their object to "deserve" the renewal of the contract from Bux to India; and, yet their swift vessel, the *Hindostan*, was forty days in bringing the last Mail. The case appears almost hopeless with the present vessel.

We must not, however, be unjust to a body to whom we are under the greatest obligations. The conveyance of the mails to Calcutta in forty days, was considered a very great achievement when it was first established; and, for the time, it was unquestionably a great and magnificent undertaking. But this speed has been cast into the shade by subsequent progress; and it is these miraculous improvements which place the Peninsular and similar Companies in so great a dilemma, but for which due allowance is not made by the community. A Company takes a contract, collects a capital of a Million sterling, and lays it out in the construction of the very best vessels which had up to that period been seen, and which, to the delight of the public, attain a regular speed of eight knots an hour. But before these vessels are worn out, large improvements in ocean steam navigation are made, and vessels are constructed which give an average speed of twelve knots an hour. What then is the Company to do with the vessels on which its capital has been expended? Is it not the fault of the Company that its vessels are superseded, by this rapid progress of the age, before they are superannuated? But, although, we who are very reasonable, argue thus rationally, and are willing to make large allowances for a Company placed in so difficult a position, the public will not. The public will insist on having, at once, the highest speed which has been shown to be attainable, and will show no more sympathy for the loss which the Company may sustain in getting rid of its old vessels, than was shown to the old Mail coach proprietors, when their establishments were superseded by the Rail. It is idle to fight against this propensity of the public; the Company must yield to the pressure of circumstances, and get better vessels. In this age of competition and improvement, every Association must lay its account to the occurrence of such perplexing conjunctures. Seven years makes a wonderful difference in the aspect and the prospect of affairs, in the present age. The first passage across the Atlantic by the *Great Western* was considered little short of a miracle; and the dwellers on either shore of that ocean, clapped their hands and shouted for joy to find that it was thus bridged for the first time. But the voyage is now made in less than eleven days. The Americans, who were half a century behind us in the construction of ocean steamers, have now taken it in downright earnest, and are going ahead with their accustomed rapidity. Cunard's *Asia* made the voyage from New York to Liverpool in Ten days and Eleven hours. An American steamer has now accomplished the distance in Ten days and Nine hours. The Peninsular Company must therefore open their eyes to the broad and unquestionable fact, that while the speed of steam voyages between England and America is counted by hours, the public will not be satisfied that the speed of the voyage between England and India, should still continue to be counted by days. If they wish to keep their footing, they must come up to the achievements and the expectations of the age. They are old friends, and great favorites in India; we owe them a long debt of gratitude,

and we all wish them to retain their line; but they cannot hope to do this unless they can augment the speed of their vessels and reduce their charges. They cannot reasonably expect to maintain their popularity and their monopoly, when they are perpetually subject to the most damaging contrasts. The last Mail informs us that they have been endeavoring to bring an action for libel against the *Daily News*, in reference to some disparaging remarks which have appeared in that paper. This again is another mistake, almost as great as that which they committed, when they made the surrender of the Bombay line the *sine qua non* of their laying on vessels to Sydney. No association of wise men ever knocks its head against the Press. The Press is after all the best friend of the Company, because it points out that which the public considers defective in their arrangements, and thus enables them to correct it in time. It is not by prosecutions for libel, but by removing the cause of complaints that the Peninsular Company can expect to keep their ground amidst the fierce competition which is rising on every hand. It is by building new vessels of 2200 tons burden, and 800 horse power, and bringing our mails in 84 or 85 days, and reducing the charge for passages, from monopoly rates to something like competition rates, that this Company will be able to retain the advantageous position it now occupies.

We rejoice to learn from the last advice that they have begun to adopt this wise and salutary measure, and have now two steamers on the stocks of the largest tonnage and power. The competition grows sharper every day. Brother Jonathan is coming forth into the arena with his gigantic vessels, and there is no longer any Navigation Act to cramp his movements. It is beginning to be believed moreover, that a large establishment of sea going steamers can be permanently maintained without Government patronage. Even the attempt to demonstrate this fact, must tend to reduce the premium of 600,000*l.* a year which England now pays to maintain a communication by steam with her various colonies and dependencies. The line to Panama has been completed, and packets are now despatched monthly to that port from London. The railway across the Isthmus is expected to be finished in eighteen months, and there is every probability that the steam communication with Australia will take the Panama route. Already are the Americans building the largest steamers for a monthly packet between California and the Isthmus, and they will probably contract with our Government to carry the mails to Sydney. In these circumstances, our old friends of St. Mary Axe must bestir themselves, and make it their chief aim, to give us better vessels, and they may then be sure of maintaining their present footing. Perhaps, one of the wisest things they could do, would be to lay a monthly steamer of the largest dimensions, on the line from Calcutta to China. This could not have been done advantageously while the opium sales were held three or four times a year only; but with the new system of monthly sales, they might reckon upon the whole of the opium freight, month by month. This, with a bonus from Government for the Mails, and a constant succession of passengers to the Straits and to China, would afford a full remuneration for an establishment of two steamers. They may be certain that if they do not take up the enterprise immediately, the Americans will do so.

After these remarks were in type, we received a letter from a friend, with the following extract from an American paper, which will be interesting to our readers as exhibiting the energy

of progression which marks the Anglo Saxon race on the other side the Atlantic.

"NATIONAL PATENTMAN OF THE UNITED STATES.—Mr. Fitch, is his Patent for a new and improved mode of propelling vessels by steam, of 100,000*l.* of the existing Patent Funds, whereas the increase shall be quadratically distributed in National Premiums, to the authors of the most valuable and beneficial inventions and discoveries during the preceding four years.

Among the subjects for premiums, he suggested one of 10,000*l.* for a locomotive power, or plow and harrow combined. One of 50,000*l.* for the first steam ship or other vessel that makes consecutive trips across the Atlantic at an average speed of not less than 30 miles per hour. Another of 50,000*l.* for the first vessel that does the same at an average speed of not less than 50 miles per hour. One of 100,000*l.* for the first person who, within a certain number of years, shall render electricity available as an economical, efficient and general prime-mover; or who shall make known the means by which atmospheric pressure can be profitably employed in the propulsion of sea-going vessels and land locomotives, or as a general propeller of fixed machinery, by some rapid mode of expelling air from a cylinder or annihilating it under a piston; or who develops an explosive or other prime-mover, applicable, energetic and economical as the vapor of water, and whose existing and patenting mechanism is less massive and costly than that of the steam engine."

#### WAGON TRAINS IN THE NORTH WEST.—

While considering the question of the probability of the Bengal Railway ultimately becoming a profitable concern to its shareholders as well as to the public, we received some information from a friend who had included us to make inquiries as to the extent to which native travellers were likely to avail themselves of the rapid means of communication, even if a little more expensive than the ordinary method of travelling. We have not yet obtained all the statistics we could wish, but it appears to be the general impression, that while the generosity of native travellers are too poor to avail themselves of any other means of transit than those which nature has provided, the wealthier class, and the Native Army in particular, gladly pay a rather higher rate for the convenience of travelling in the wagon trains. For instance, although the fare from Loodiana to Cawnpore, by the bullock train, is three rupees a head, and the transit burdened with some vexatious restrictions, such as limiting the passenger's luggage to one carpet, one blanket, and one lotah, the train is frequently crowded with sepoys, who cheerfully pay the fare demanded, to escape the pain of arriving at their own homes, weary and foot sore. After the late leave granted to officers tried in the Punjab, a party of native officers tried to reach Loodiana, in time for the bullock train, but they found it filled with sepoys who had arrived before them. The latter accordingly arrived at Cawnpore in eight days, while the former were twenty days on the road, and wore out both their ponies and themselves. We have been told that in some of these trains it is the custom to weigh the sepoys, and charge for them at so much a maund, but the practice is not universal. We shall feel obliged to any of our friends on the line of road, who will furnish us with some statistics of the number of natives who make use of these bullock trains, the class to which they belong, and the general rate of payment.

DR. CULLEN.—In the *Friend of India* of the 14th November 1850, we stated, on the authority of several English writers, that the Roman Catholic Rite of Ireland, Dr. Cullen, had "actually given his assent to the propositions that the Earth is the centre of the universe, and larger than all other bodies, and that the sun is six feet in diameter, and moreover insists that such ideas are in conformity with the Mosaic record." A few days after we received a letter from the Right Rev. Bishop O'Connell, Vicar Apostolic of Dacca, requesting us to declare that the statement, as











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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDUSTAN," STARTING FROM CALCUTTA.**  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Surat, and the intermediate Ports, (Mumbai, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong, intended for transmission by the *Pendular* and *Princetown* Company's Steam Vessel *Hindustan*, will be closed at this Office, on Friday, the 7th inst., and that any packet will be despatched here, on Saturday, the 8th inst., with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Keady, in time to reach the *Bombay*. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Hindustan* can be received after 5 P. M. of that date.

**REPORT OVERLAND EXPRESS MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
NOTICE is hereby given that an Express Parcel (containing exclusively of Overland letters, and excluding the pre-paid Maximum weight of 50 lbs.) is appointed to leave Bombay on the 21st inst., will be closed at and despatched from this Office on Saturday, the 20th inst., and that no letter above one Tola in weight, or any brought after 5 P. M. on that date (whether the letter be received for transmission by this opportunity; the public are particularly requested to take notice of this to avoid disappointment.

No more than one Tola weight of letters can be posted, on such occasion by any one firm or individual.

D. B. BRACKENBERRY,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, 21st January, 1851.

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THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.—We return to the consideration of this question, the first and the most important of those which will require to be settled at the close of the present Charter, and in reply to the remarks of the *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* in his impression of the 26th of December, would observe that he is right in supposing that the evidence given by Mr. Jones and Mr. Courtney in 1852 had escaped our recollection. We were thus led to suppose that the minute interference which the Board of Control exercises over every thing connected with the administration of India, in Leadenhall Street, commenced with the present Charter, whereas it would appear from Mr. Courtney's evidence to have existed long before. "The terms of the preceding Act and of the oath appeared to him to impose on the Board, the duty of governing India on the best of its judgment and ability,—and as fully as if there were no subordinate Court."

It was apparently the design of those who framed the Act of 1784, which first constituted the Board, to provide for the gradual transfer of the Government of India to functionaries appointed by the Crown; but so long as the Company continued to be a large trading corporation, it was necessary to maintain an agency distinct from that nominated by the Crown, to conduct their mercantile transactions. By the Charter of 1833, the commercial character of the Company became extinct; and there ceased to be any of the functions exercised by the Court of Directors which was not under the direct control of

the Board. We had then for the first time a double Government, solely and exclusively for the political administration of this empire, but, although the anomaly existed, it certainly was not so prominently brought under public notice until the Report on Official Salaries, with the evidence of Sir John Hobhouse, was published. We believe, that previously to the publication of that document, no one had any idea of the practical exercise of that power, of the theoretical existence of which he entertained no doubt.

The *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* is somewhat mistaken when he supposes that we were disposed to doubt that "the responsibility which the President of the India Board has arrogated to himself was a divided responsibility resting on the shoulders of the entire Cabinet."

We are fully aware that this is and must be the case. The responsibility of the President arises out of his position as a Cabinet Minister, and it must be evident that he would no more venture to adopt any line of Policy, of his own mere motion, which might affect the character, or stability of the Ministry, than the Foreign or Colonial Secretary would think of so doing.

In all great Indian questions he must carry his colleagues with him; and it is only on the numerous minor questions of administration, which must be constantly arising, that he would think of acting on his own responsibility. If the project of marching an army across the Indus into Afghanistan to counteract, what were deemed, the machinations of Russia, had not obtained the concurrence of the Whig cabinet, it would not have been adopted. Sir John Hobhouse, when he said, "It was done by myself—that is to say,

I was the person responsible for it, and the Court of Directors had nothing to do with it," except the Secret Committee signing the despatches sent to India," certainly did not mean to insinuate that he had adopted a measure which has entailed on us, in its immediate and remote consequences, a war expenditure of Twenty millions sterling, without the concurrence of the Cabinet of which he was a member. He only intended to assert that the war was undertaken by the Board of Control, or rather by Her Majesty's Government, of which he was the Indian representative, and altogether independently of the Court of Directors, and thus to indicate that the Company had no voice whatever in the management of political affairs in India. We understood it simply to signify that Sir John Hobhouse engaged in the Afghan war without consulting the Directors, but not without consulting his colleagues.

As to the doubt which the *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* expresses, whether any gentleman holding the subordinate post of Senior Clerk "would venture to offer his unsolicited opinion, much less scribble on the back of a proposal coming from Leadenhall Street, the word 'undesirable,' we are unable to remove it without a violation of confidence. Doubtless, no Senior Clerk would venture to offer any unsolicited opinion, neither would it be necessary, as the Blue Book informs us that all the proposals from Leadenhall Street are sent in the first instance to the Senior Clerk, to whose department it belongs, who records his opinion regarding it; and this opinion carries far more weight than the public

is generally supposed to attach to it. If we are to credit the history which is generally given of not a few measures which have been enforced, and of others which have been strangled, our representation of the party whose influence has turned the scale, will be found to be perfectly correct. Lord William Bentinck, on returning to England from India, called at the Board Office, when himself full of the question of the public administration in India, and he said to a friend on coming out, that he found the President busy with Greek lambs, and the Senior Clerks governing India in an adjoining room. Their power has sustained no diminution since that period.

We did not allude to the Court of Directors as a little Pellington Senate, but to the Court of Proprietors. And the *Telegraph* has only to look at the case as it really stands, to be satisfied that the meeting of the Senate in Leadenhall Street, in the present circumstances of the Company, is unquestionably the greatest of all the farces now enacted in England. This body consists of the Proprietors of East India Stock, who elect the Directors to whom the management of India is nominally entrusted, and the Court of Proprietors has the power of discussing the measures pursued by the Directors, and of passing a vote of censure on them.

From time to time, the London journals give us reports of the debates in this assembly, in which the public measures of the Company are violently assailed by some of the Proprietors, and strenuously defended by the Directors. But it is perfectly known to both parties that the Court of Directors are not at liberty to send a single despatch to India without the concurrence of the Board; and that they are in no instance free agents, and cannot be considered responsible for any thing beyond the bare originating of proposals. To what end is all this munimery of meetings repudiated, when all the speeches of all the Proprietors cannot in the smallest degree affect the character of any Indian measure?

To us it appears that the only reason for keeping up such an anomalous body as the Court of Proprietors, in connection with the administration of India, is to provide the means of disposing of the patronage of India in such a manner as not to destroy the equilibrium of the constitution of Great Britain. This patronage is of greater value than the whole of that which Her Majesty's Ministers now have at their disposal, and the transfer of it to the Ministry would, it is apprehended, render them too powerful over our constitution, and affect the independence of the House of Commons. The Proprietors are therefore entrusted with the election of the Directors of the East India Company, and the Directors distribute these appointments among their friends and relatives; and, thus, the Indian patronage of the value of more than Six Millions sterling a year, is kept from producing an injurious effect on the Government of England.

The existence of a body of Proprietors was indispensable so long as the Company was engaged in large mercantile transactions, and the dividends of their capital depended on the talents and success of the Directors, but since the dividends have been fixed and cannot be affected by any proceedings of the Directors, and the Company have no other functions but the go-

verment of a magnificent empire, the existence of such a body, as an instrument of Government, is perfectly anomalous. There can be little doubt, that the political functions of the Proprietors would have been brought to a termination at the close of the last Charter, when the momentary character of the Corporation terminated; but the Ministry were at the time involved in all the embarrassments of the Reform Bill, and were unwilling to have the construction of two governments on their hands at once. They therefore postponed the remodeling of the Government of India to a future period, and that which was originally and intrinsically only a commercial institution, was allowed to remain as a political institution, and those who had been in the habit of electing Directors to manage their own commercial affairs, were entrusted with the power of electing men for the Government of a great empire. This arrangement was the fittest of necessity, but, in consequence of less prudence, than to allow the English Fundholders to elect the Cabinet. There seems, therefore, every reason to believe, that the political functions of the Proprietors of East India Stock will cease and determine at the conclusion of the present Charter, and that they will be restricted to the simple duty of receiving the dividends upon their capital. To place the Proprietors of East India stock on the same footing as the holders of the Three and a half per cent, however, involves a complete reorganization of the Government of India. The Directors must then be appointed by the Ministry, and it appears to us, that circumstances are rapidly tending to this conclusion. Of the whole body of Directors, one-half may be said to consist of men who have the benefit of Indian experience, and it is to them we are indebted for that salutary supervision of the public administration of India, which keeps it pure and bright; the other half come in chiefly for a share in the patronage of the Court, and India would be none the worse if they had not even the appearance of a voice in its affairs. If some plan can be devised for securing the services of the working part of the Directors, and for disposing of the Indian patronage in such a mode as not to endanger the British constitution, there is every reason to believe, that the Board and the Court will be amalgamated into one body at the close of the present Charter. This arrangement may, or may not be advisable; there are vigorous arguments both in favor of such change, and in opposition to it; but there would at least be this one benefit attending it, that the responsibilities of the Government of India would become real, and would be concentrated in one body, for at present it is the Court of Directors who are considered responsible for the administration, although they have no voice in the matter; while those who are really responsible, escape from all obligation, by getting behind the screen in Leadenhall Street.

**THE MILITARY BOARD.**—The *Celestia Gazette* announced some weeks ago, that the Governor General had appointed a Committee consisting of Major Kennedy, a consulting Engineer of Government, Major Baker of the Engineers, and Mr. Charles Allen of the Civil Service, to investigate the system of Public Works at this Presidency. Since that time the papers in Calcutta have made occasional allusions to the progress of their labors. But we believe, that the official designation of their duties does not convey any adequate idea of the service which they embrace. Indeed, it is well known that the investigations of this Commi-

tee have not been confined to that single branch of the public service, but include the entire organization and working of the Military Board, which have for some time been the subject of increasing animadversion. The Committee have recently, we believe, taken the evidence of that members of that Board, of its past and its officiating Secretaries, of some of the officers employed under it, and in general, of all those who were able to throw any light on the subject. From this investigation, Government will obtain a body of evidence, which may, and perhaps will, become the basis of a new and improved organization of the Board, and relieve it from the sobriquet of the Dilatory Board. A report like this, founded upon a minute as well as a comprehensive investigation, must be considered an indispensable preliminary to any reform of the system. The Board is understood to stand to the Court of Directors in the relation of a Pet, and like the Court's other pet across the Peninsula, the Indian Navy, is one of the most cumbersome and heavy working bodies in India. Lord Dalhousie has therefore acted with much discretion in instituting this Committee of Enquiry, and more especially in so timing the appointment of it as to be able to enlist the services of Major Kennedy. The evidence thus collected cannot fail to carry weight, and it will probably enforce on the Home authorities the necessity of a thorough reorganization of the Board, and a more judicious distribution of its functions.

The Military Board works ill, because it is overworked. It has been remarked in India that those who have little to do, do nothing; but the experience of the Military Board shews that it is quite possible to obtain the same result from the opposite extreme. It has had too many departments thrust on it. A history of the successive multiplication of its duties would give us an instructive lesson of the mode in which public business has been mismanaged here. The work of the Board has for a long time past been in a state of arrears, which appeared altogether hopeless. Though it has enjoyed the services of some of the ablest men to be found in the public service, as Secretaries, they have labored in vain to simplify its machinery and expedite its movements. The gloomy conviction that they might work themselves to death, without enabling the Board to make any progress, either in its various spheres of duty, or in public confidence, has broken the spring and elasticity of the Board. The heavy labors, and heavier responsibilities of the Board, have been enough of themselves to impede its action; but as if this impediment was not sufficient, Government has thought fit to add to it by treating the Board as a mere deliberative, rather than as an executive body. The members have been selected as if it had been intended, that its endless discussions—which some men have been so unscrupulous as to call its squabbles,—should completely paralyze its executive powers. It seems to have been constituted upon the model of the British Parliament, with Her Majesty's Ministry on one side the table, and Her Majesty's opposition on the other. The consequence has been that whenever the steeds pulled in opposite directions, the coach stood still. The present enquiry will not only develop the cause of its dilatoriness and inefficiency, but also suggest such a reorganization of it, as shall render it one of the most useful institutions of the state. The Committee will, of course, not fail to hold up to censure, the absurd anomaly of having a Commissary General, without the smallest control over his own department, and making his

own subordinate officers responsible, not to him, but to the Board, collectively, of which he is only an individual member. How far the startling frauds in the Commissariat which have recently been dragged to light, are to be ascribed to this arrangement, we have not of course the means of ascertaining, but it must be evident that a system which disassociates the Commissary General from all the Deputy and Assistant Commissaries, and places the centre of control a thousand miles distant from the sphere of operations, must have a natural tendency to produce these results.

Lord Dalhousie deserves no little credit for having set the example of appointing Committees of Enquiry to search out the evils which time has been breeding in our public institutions, and to examine the defects of the old machinery. This is the third Committee of the kind which he has appointed within the last eighteen months, and we feel certain that the result will prove so beneficial to the administration, as to lead to similar appointments regarding other departments. The first had reference to the Police of the Metropolis, which had been so incessantly assailed by public opinion; and although the Report of the Commissioners has not been made public, and will not, of course, be published without the permission of the Court of Directors, yet it has already led to improvements which have calmed public indignation and given general satisfaction. The state of the Postal communications at this Presidency, which had been going on from bad to worse, and from worse to worst, under a lethargic administration, at a time when unexampled improvements were in progress in Europe, called aloud for investigation, and Lord Dalhousie at once met the public wishes by appointing a Commissioner of Enquiry, not only for this Presidency, but also for Madras and Bombay, who were to meet and prepare a combined Report when their respective reports were completed; and there is an universal expectation that the result will prove most satisfactory. The Commissioners are understood to have made up their minds to recommend the most solid and salutary reforms, without much squeamishness regarding the risk which they may involve, of some 50 or £20,000 a year, out of Twenty-seven millions sterling of revenue; and Lord Dalhousie is known to be favorable to a large measure of reformation. The Report, moreover, will reach Leadenhall Street after the Court of Directors have received the usual notice to show cause for their being again entrusted with the Government of the Empire; and they will, doubtless, at once grant our wishes, and carry the concession to credit, as affording one of the strongest arguments for giving them another lease of political life.—And now we have a third Committee sitting upon the Military Board, the results of which will unquestionably be most beneficial.

#### STREAM COMMUNICATION TO AUSTRALIA.

The journals received by the *hull* mail assure us that the necessity of establishing a monthly steam communication with the Australian group of colonies, is daily becoming more imperative, and attracts public attention in an increasing degree. The *Times* states that immediately on the meeting of Parliament, the subject will become a prominent one. The necessity of the case is placed in the clearest point of view by the simple statement given in that journal that the declared value of the exports from England to those colonies amounts to 2,980,894*l.* a year, while the exports to the West Indies amount to only 1,821,140*l.*; Yet while the latter

colonists have enjoyed the advantage of a steam communication for nine years at an expense of 240,000*l.* a year, the Government is endeavoring to postpone the establishment of a similar communication with the other colonies, till it can be done cheap, by constraining the East India Company to relinquish the Bombay and Suez line, and transferring the entire steam intercourse between Europe, Asia, and Australasia to the Peninsular and Oriental Company. The *Times* very justly observes that the discussion between the East India Company and the Government at home, regarding the Suez line, has nothing intrinsically to do with the Australian question, inasmuch as any saving which may be effected in the cost of steam communication between London and the various ports in India, in the Straits and China, by a new arrangement with the Peninsular Company, may be placed as a set off against the expense of establishing an immediate intercourse by steam with Australia. Every day's experience must now serve more clearly to convince the Peninsular Company of the fatal error they committed in not taking the Australian line at once, without stipulating for the simultaneous surrender of the Bombay and Suez line. Time has thus been afforded for examining the question in a variety of aspects, and bringing forward the proposals of other associations, and for the development of new interests.

From the present appearance of the question there does not, therefore, appear to be much chance that the route from London to Australia through Singapore, will continue to receive any degree of public support. The Pacific Steam Packet Company have offered to carry a monthly mail from Panama to those colonies for 48,000*l.* a year; and their tender meets with increasing support from all parties, and more particularly from the leading journal in the British empire. This may apparently be ascribed to three reasons. First, because the route is said to be shorter than the eastern one, by 18 days to Australia and 22 days to New Zealand. Secondly, because it would be vastly cheaper for passengers, whose convenience must be a leading consideration. The charges of the Peninsular Company to Sydney, would be 2210 for each passenger. The *Times* therefore designated it "the prohibitory route." The expense of a passage from Southampton to Panama, by the steamers which have just been established, and from Panama to New South Wales in the vessels of the Pacific Steam Packet Company, would not, in the aggregate, amount to much more than one-half this sum. But in addition to the recommendation afforded by its expedition and its economy, we have a third advantage in the facility which it would afford for connecting Australia with the new interests and the new settlements, which are so rapidly rising on the shores of the Pacific. The interests of the mercantile and manufacturing communities in England, must necessarily incline them to prefer the Panama to the Singapore route, and their influence will probably be found to overrule the inclination the Ministry have manifested for the other route, because it can be had cheapest. The *Times* considers the adoption of the Panama route for the conveyance of the mails and passengers to Australia, to be so intimately connected with the wants of the age, that if through the artificial interference of Government, the longer and more expensive route, should be adopted, a rival American line would spring up in a few years, or even months, to run from the shores of the Pacific, and intercept our mails, and eventually to force Govern-

ment to grant it a contract. We may, therefore, conclude, that the subject will be brought forward immediately on the assembly of Parliament; that the Ministry will be constrained to make an immediate arrangement for the conveyance of the mails—and, that the half way house between London and Sydney will be Panama, and not Singapore.

We are happy to learn from the last mail that the Peninsular and Oriental Company are now building two magnificent vessels of 2,000 tons and 800 horse power to convey the Mail between Southampton and Alexandria. These vessels will, of course, equal in speed the vessels which convey the mails between Liverpool and America, and reduce the passage from 16 days to 10 or 11. But we must have vessels of the same size and power on this side of Suez, or the Company will be found to fall short of public expectations, and risk the prolongation of their contract. They must give their vessels the highest speed which ocean steamers have now obtained, or fall into the back ground. The Mail informs us, that the Company are about to increase their capital to the extent of half a million sterling, and to build five additional vessels; we can, therefore, entertain no doubt, that three of these are intended for our own Eastern seas. We are happy to receive these indications that the Company have been at length roused to a sense of the perils to which their monopoly is exposed, by the rapid strides of improvement which have lately been made in the science of ocean steam communication, and by the rise of enterprises and formidable rivals. "The Directors," says the Mail, "are, independently of the adoption of the proposed route, endeavoring to open a direct line of steam communication between Calcutta, the Straits, and China, with the view of accommodating the mercantile community of Calcutta"—and, we may add, with great truth, with the view also of promoting their own advantage. We continue to feel the most lively interest in the prosperity of this Company, and shall always do so as long as their interests are identified with those of the public, and we therefore sincerely hope that they will be enabled to occupy this line at the earliest period, and will not allow themselves to be forestalled by their active rivals. The sum now paid for the conveyance of Opium to the Straits and China, every year, exceeds 250,000*l.*, and merchants would of course give the preference to Steamers capable of accomplishing the voyage in fifteen days, over the best Clippers. When to this we add the value of other freight, the returns from passengers, and some substantial bonus for the conveyance of the Mails, which the Government of India would not refuse, we shall have about 100,000*l.* for the first Company which shall establish a monthly communication between Calcutta and China and the intermediate ports. If the line is not immediately taken up by the Peninsular Company, it will assuredly be occupied by the Americans. The Company must not forget that both its position and its prospects have been materially altered within the last three or four years by two important events,—by the abolition of the Navigation Laws, which opens the communication and the carrying trade between the various ports of the British empire, both in the East and West, to all maritime nations, and, by the start which the Americans have taken in the construction of sea going steamers.

After these remarks we give in type, we received a printed copy of the Report of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, at the tenth annual general meeting in London. It will be

found in a subsequent column. It exhibits a state of unexampled prosperity, and shows how large are the resources which the Company possess, and how well able they are to meet the public wishes. The net profits for the year ending the 30th of September, 1860, was 68,000*l.*, which has enabled the Directors to declare the usual dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The present amount of the guarantee Fund amounts to not less than 180,000*l.*

The Report further informs us that "the Directors have expressed their willingness, at once to carry out the communication with Australia, and to postpone that part of their plan which has occasioned the difficulty with the East India Company;" in other words, that they have offered to take the Australian line without that from Suez to Bombay. This is a wise determination, but it comes, we apprehend, too late. We are enabled to speak the more freely on this subject, as the Directors themselves profess to be perfectly indifferent in the matter. They state in the Report that as far as "the pecuniary interest of the Company is concerned, they feel that the acceptance or refusal of their offer to establish a steam communication with Australia via Singapore, is of comparatively little importance." Immediately after, they remark that "it would be equally, if not more conducive to the interests of the Peninsular Company, if some other parties, possessing the means of ensuring its efficient development, could be found to undertake this enterprise; because such an arrangement could not fail of being beneficial to this Company, by increasing the traffic on the established lines, while it would be exempted from the risk of loss, which almost invariably attends the opening of a new line of ocean steam communication." It is, therefore, to be hoped that her Majesty's Ministers will not allow the Company to act in the spirit of martyrdom, and sacrifice their own interests for those of the public; and will adopt that plan which the Peninsular Company assure us will be most conducive to their interests, by at once concluding the contract with the Pacific Company.

We rejoice to hear that the Company have ordered the *Lady Mary Wood* round from China to Calcutta, to open the monthly communication without delay; and that the *Erin* was to leave Southampton in December last, for the same line, and was to be followed by another suitable vessel for the same destination and service. The line between Calcutta, the Straits, and China, will therefore be in full operation before the end of the present year.

THE MUNICIPAL ACT, AS APPLIED TO MYSORE.—The people of Mysore have set a noble example to Northern India, by taking the initiative in availing themselves of the provisions of the new Municipal Act. Their request to the Government of the North West to have the Act enforced, has been already noticed in our columns, and we have now only to allude to the bye-laws passed by that Government for the guidance of the inhabitants in managing their own municipal affairs. As far as Mysore is concerned, these rules may, in fact, be considered a supplementary Regulation, amplifying and explaining the provisions of the original Act, and laying down definite instructions for the election and guidance of the Commissioners. Mr. Thomson has transferred to the residents the power of electing the Commissioners, vested by Act XXVI. of 1860 in himself, and directed that they shall be appointed every year by a meeting of Householders, summoned by advertisement on the last Saturday of the month of May, but sub-

ject of course to the approval of Government. The Commissioners are not to be more than seven in number, or less than five, and they are to be assisted in their duties by a resident Secretary, on a salary of 50 a month, who must not, however, be a Commissioner. A chairman elected by those gentlemen from their own body, is the only other officer, but they may employ as many collectors, overseers, messengers, or other servants as they deem fitting, and at such rates of remuneration as they shall themselves determine. After defining the exact boundaries of Mussorie, the "Rules" proceed to determine the maximum rate of assessment, which is fixed at five per cent on the actual or estimated rental of all houses, shops, or stalls within the town, the money to be paid by the owner of the house, and not by the occupier. The fifth Rule, however, which declares that "the persons and property to be taxed shall include the owners of all dwelling houses and shops within Mussorie," appears in some measure objectionable, as the Municipal Act was obviously designed to leave the objects and the mode of taxation with the Commissioners, while this rule apparently limits their powers to the imposition of a house, shop, or stall tax. We have no doubt the Lieutenant Governor's reason for this restriction was to protect the inhabitants from the mistakes in political economy, into which amateur legislators are so apt to fall, but it would have been advisable to leave a margin for the adoption of a house, or servant, or bazaar tax, at the discretion of the Commissioners. A servant tax, we believe, has never been so much as discussed in India, but we can conceive for which would, under proper limitations, fall so equitably upon rich and poor, and certainly none more could be so easily levied. In Bengal, also, it might have the excellent effect of compelling the rich Baboos to reduce the crowd of chuddeen who, under the designation of durwans, chowkedars, and attendants, keep all the well disposed villagers in awe. The Eighth rule places certain funds not obtained from assessments at the disposal of the Commissioners, and is so important that we cite it entire. "The Revenue available for public purposes in Mussorie under Act XXVI of 1850, shall include the one-third of the ground rents of estates as now allowed by Government, rents of sites in the Bazaars, and the produce of the sales of waste lands within the Settlement, as well as one-third of any rent hereafter to be assessed on such waste lands, and all fines that may be levied under these rules." This provides for the gradual augmentation of the municipal funds, in proportion to the increase of population, and the consequent cultivation of waste lands, and in future years prove a very important source of revenue. The regulations about the safe custody of the monies collected, appear to have been composed under some hallucination on the part of Mr. Thomson, as they are to be placed in the Mussorie Agency of the North West Bank! It is next ordered that a Register of all property in Mussorie shall be lodged in the hands of the Secretary, and that every change in the ownership of such property, whether by means of sale, purchase, or mortgage, must be immediately communicated to the Secretary by the parties concerned, on penalty of a fine of ten Rupees a year during the continuance of such neglect. This plan, if amplified, and carried out through the North Western Provinces, would produce a system of registration, differing but little from that which has so often been proclaimed as the panacea for all the evils to which landholders are liable, and would greatly facilitate the sale and transfer

of landed property. The mode of voting according to the assessed value of property, is laid down by Rule XVII, which directs that "the proprietor of a registered house paying the rate on Rs. 400, shall have one vote at meetings (for election) and of a house or houses paying the rate on Rs. 2000 shall have two votes, and on Rs. 8000 or more shall have three votes." These sums we suppose have reference to the actual value, and not to the rental of the houses, and they throw nearly the whole power of election into the hands of the respectable inhabitants, to the exclusion of the tag-rag and bobtail. The last clause requiring notice is that which defines the meaning of the word nuisance, which is held to include almost every evil common to Indian towns, and which we give in full, omitting only one which refers to a nuisance universal throughout India, but which we need not place before our readers.

1. Persons riding on public roads.
  2. The leading of horses and dogs about, for exercise on public roads, except between the hours of 8 a. m. and 4 p. m.
  3. Allowing dogs to be at large on the Mall and other frequented roads, during the time of evening exercise.
  4. The driving of loose cattle on public roads, except in travelling from place to place.
  5. The throwing of stones, earth, and other rubbish on the public roads, or laying building materials thereon except by permission of the Commissioners.
  6. Refusal to permit the Commissioners to trim trees overhanging public roads, or to cut down low jungle which in ten yards of public roads on both sides; such refusal to be treated as continuing a nuisance.
  7. Keeping a Smith's forge, slaughter-house, or pigsty within 30 yards of public roads.
  8. Bagging on, or near, public roads, or exposing men thereon to excite charity.
  9. Defiling the public roads, or springs.
  10. Encroachments on public roads by the temporary exposure of articles for sale, or by permanent buildings."
- We have but one more remark to offer on these rules. We cannot but feel much to regret that the North West Provinces, on this occasion, as on all others, should have gone so far ahead of Bengal. The inhabitants of Ilorah had a fair opportunity of obtaining the privileges now attained by those of Mussorie, but their determination not to be taxed, even by themselves for their own benefit, induced them to reject the proffered boon. We have little doubt that Municipalities will be established at no distant period in every town of the North West, and will speedily give them an appearance of order, cleanliness, and decency not much inferior to those of England, while the cities of Bengal remain the paradise of every thing unclean.

THE TANKARA RAILWAY.—It is now nearly nine months since we alluded to the progress of this important undertaking, and published a statement of the statistics by which the projectors hoped to establish the soundness of their views. Since that time we have heard little or nothing of any operations in that direction, but the time which has elapsed has not been lost. Mr. West, an able Surveyor, has been occupied in surveying the proposed line, and his Report has been republished with more or less completeness in all the Bombay journals. It enters at considerable length into the nature of the soils through which the Railway is destined to run, the principal varieties of which Mr. West styles red and black soils. The former is of a gravelly nature, underlined at a depth of about four feet with small pebbles, admirably adapted for metalling, and is generally well fitted for embankments, as it holds well together at an inclination of about two and a half to one. The black soil, on the contrary, is totally unfit for embankments, but when protected by a layer of a different kind, it becomes, as has been proved by

experiment, exceedingly tenacious. This last fact is one of great importance, as the whole area of the cotton districts is covered with this black earth, and it has therefore been doubted, whether Railways through cotton fields were practicable under any circumstances whatever. The earthworks required are by no means heavy, the maximum height of the embankments being seven feet and a half, and that only for a very short distance. The total of the earthworks required for the whole line will amount to 1,98,129 cubic yards, and the total length of the cuttings will be 18,091 yards: Mr. West calculates that the entire expense of constructing a Railway forty-two miles in length from Baroda to the Tankara Bunder, if adapted for steam power, will be Rs. 16,20,120. He then enters into a minute detail of the number of engines, carriages and carts which he considers will be necessary, and finds the general cost of the working stock to be Rs. 2,13,800. This would be at the rate of about 44000 a mile. The maximum speed, however, in his estimate is only seventeen miles an hour, which will enable the merchant to despatch goods from Baroda to the Bunder in three hours and a half, whereas the journey at present occupies from three to five days, and the goods are exposed to robbery along the whole life. The working charges, including the expense of renewal and maintenance, or what is technically called "wear and tear" are estimated at Rs. 2,12,080, which will be the annual expenditure, while the original outlay, as stated above, will be Eighteen lakhs and a half of rupees. The returns for this sum are to be obtained, first, from the conveyance of Eighteen lakhs of maunds of ordinary goods and cotton, 6000 chests of opium, and a small, though profitable number of passengers. The number of chests of Opium is derived from official returns, and the weights of other goods has been assumed, after a careful survey of the actual traffic on the line of roads already existing. The figures therefore stand thus.

The returns to be expected if steam power is employed are,	
18,00,000 Indian maunds carried 32 miles	
at 4 pie per mile ... ..	Rs. 3,44,801
Passengers, ... ..	50,000
Opium 6,000 Chests @ 10 Annas ... ..	4,875
	Rs. 3,79,676
Deduct working expenses and charges as per estimate, ... ..	2,12,080
Remainder applicable for dividends, ... ..	1,67,596

Or rather more than 5½ per cent on the total Capital, viz. ... .. 18,28,420

The carriage of light parcels will, however, it is expected, raise this return to ten per cent per annum, even should the establishment of the Railway fail to create a far greater degree of traffic than at present exists. This, however, would be in direct contradiction to every fact hitherto known in the annals of Railway making, and we have little doubt that if the estimates given above may be received with confidence, the profits obtained by shareholders will considerably exceed Mr. West's calculation.

Mr. West has entered into, what appears to us to be an exceedingly useless calculation of the expense and profits likely to be obtained from the employment of bullocks on a tram-road. The one requisite above all others necessary for the improvement of Indian communications is speed, and speed can only be attained by the use of steam. The bullock carts, even on an iron road, would not travel more than two and



**graph and Courier of the 8th January.**—If a slight turn of examination into the grants of land, jupthurs, and other stipends which appear in the Treasury accounts under the general heading of *Exonum*, and Village allowances, were instituted, we apprehend that Juggernath would find that the money in his hands, and the money which he sinks into the shade before some of the practices which are not only ripe on this side of India, but which are wholly and solely engorged out of those Exonum funds. As it would appear from this statement that the Juggernath of the Bombay side, and not in a condition to explain precisely the nature and extent of these Exonum grants, we shall be obliged to any of our friends in Bombay, who may be able to furnish us with any information on the point. Can they explain to us the incomprehensible entry in the Bombay accounts printed by order of Parliament, of "Allowances to District and Village Officers, and Exonum, including Charitable Grants to Musgros, Purohats, &c. Rs. 94,70,980"—*namely* the Million Sterling in a single twelve month!

—The *Exploitation* informs us that orders have been issued to Major General Sir W. W. W. to detach three Companies every six months from Barrackpore to duty at Chittagong, at that place will, for the future, be considered a Bengal station.

—The arrival of the Mail compelled us in our last issue to restrict our notice of the great fair at Rangpoor, to the mere record of the destruction of the town, but our readers will find an acquaintance with the proceedings of the fair, and selections, extracted from the *Exploitation* of Wednesday. We are inclined to think the tale will find a little too highly coloured, but there can be no doubt that the damage done to commerce and to the future of the town, and the future prosperity of Rangpoor. Fortunately, the houses are all of wood, and may therefore be easily rebuilt, but the inhabitants do not possess the energy of those of San Francisco.

—A curious question of jurisdiction was settled in the Supreme Court on Wednesday the 10th instant. An American seaman, laid made a demand for wages of his Captain, who was on board in the Small Cause Court, but the Judges held that they had no jurisdiction. The suit was, therefore, transferred by mandamus to the Supreme Court, and the Judges decided that the defendant in coming to Calcutta did actually work for gain in Calcutta, and was consequently within the jurisdiction of the Small Cause Court. A variety of other objects were also raised, but they were all orphans.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27.

—Since the General Orders issued by the Government, North West Provinces, appointing a Circuit Judge, by the Judges of the Districts, and the Judges of the Districts, it is intended to strongly upon the Magistrates the necessity of doing themselves more strictly than heretofore, that the Magistrate should be true and voluntary, the Judges observe with justice that few young officers are aware of the extent to which confusion are excited by their State. The Judges observe with justice that the handing over of some of the confessions taken down, is frequently "disgraceful," and a few minutes more spent in writing, would sometimes prevent the waste of hours in reading them. They also remark, in a spirit of quiet satire not often observable in so official a document, that in making the sketches required for the purposes of the Revenue Survey, "a house and a tree need not be represented by precisely the same diagram."

—The trial of Captain Spens of the Engineers for manslaughter, came off in the Supreme Court, yesterday, the 10th instant, and we are happy to say, resulted in a complete acquittal. It appears from the evidence, that the deceased was a Native Darogah, employed on the embankments at Munder Ghah. Captain Spens, having occasion to inspect some earth works, and the deceased had countermanded, found that the embankments were three feet lower than the estimate. Irritated by this circumstance, and by the absence of the deceased, he gave him a kick, of the effects of which the deceased died in short time. It is proved, however, that the kick was not sufficient to have caused death, or any serious injury, but that the deceased, who was previously diseased, had been, and was, by the kick, caused the fatal catastrophe.

—The *Herkara* believes that the sentence we wrote last week, about natives' digging up bits of the line of the Electric Telegraph to look at, is a piece of pure assumption. It appears from the fact that we have every reason to believe that it has actually occurred more than once since the commencement of the line. Unfortunately, "the Electric Telegraph" is not a terrestrial globe; so that it is impossible to say what may be the consequence. M. Michel has been the first to remark this phenomenon. The entire earth will then be noticeable, as it is evident M. Michel is already.

—The *Madras Spectator* furnishes us with the particulars of an affair in the Trinity Mission, which has called for the employment of our troops. It appears that the Mahaj of Nyagur "a mild landowner, man," had dismissed one of his servants for disobedience, and appointed another. The dismissed servant, in the most earnest collected a party of madhars men together, assembled against his rival, and made his escape into the jungle. The Superintendent of the Mahaj, Mr. Goudahary, has expressed his determination to strain every nerve to bring the offenders to justice.

—We perceive from the Bombay papers, that the Directors of the Bank of Bombay have declared a dividend for the first half year of the year at the rate of six per cent. This is less even than the profits of the Bank of Madras, and appears to be singularly low, when we consider the extent of the trade of Bombay as compared with that of the other Presidency. It is, however, no wonder, accounted for by the great proportion of the Bank's capital which is still locked up in Government securities.

—We are glad to observe from the *Aggra Messenger*, that there is a probability of the shareholders of the Aggra Bank, availing themselves of the new Act for the Registration of Joint Stock Banks. It is perfectly certain that no institution can prosper or retain the confidence of the public which does not register. We may say to the Banks as Mr. Robert Peel said to the voters—Register, Register, Register. It is a condition of the new Act, that the Banks must give good authority, that the Resident at Hyderabad has been instructed, in the event of the Nizam's debt not being paid within the stipulated period, to confiscate the assets of the Bank, as well as the assets of the debt, and the charges of the Contingent, and in case the Nizam should feel inclined to surrender the reins of sovereignty to the British Government, he is directed to encourage so excellent an intention by all the means in his power. This report confirms the opinion which we have before expressed on this subject.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19.

—The *Lahore Chronicle* informs us that the 8th January supplies us with the following comparative list of the civil and military officers employed in the Punjab:—

Commissioned Officers.

	Civil.	Military.
Board of Administration:—	3	2
Commissioners, &c.:—	7	15
Deputy Commissioners:—	10	10
Asst. Commissioners:—	16	18
Settlement Officers:—	4	0
Assistant Magistrates:—	4	0
Magistrates:—	6	0
Accepted officers:—	6	0

48 38

Bodies which, were Seventeen European and Twenty-five Native uncommissioned officers, making a grand total of 121 officers, employed in the task of administering a province, with twice the population of the whole of Scotland.

—The *Journal* mentions that a place called Rangpoor, at no great distance from Zimoon, has been pronounced an eligible site for the Punjab Seminary. It is within the dominion of the Maharajah of Kashmir, but it is understood that if the Government are inclined to occupy the station, no difficulty will be raised on the part of Gholab Singh. It appears to us, that unless such a situation affords most singular advantages in the way of climate and facility of approach, a station further within our own territory would be preferable. Those border stations have always proved a source of irritation, and although Gholab Singh will probably be able to keep his own subjects in order, his successor may not be in possession of the same authority, or have the same disposition to employ.

—The *Madras Anti-Servic Gazette* reports the departure of the Commander-in-Chief of that Presidency from Hyderabad on the 31st December. His Excellency therefore, has no intention of being present at the capital on the next evening day with the Nizam.

—The *Exploitation* notices the arrival of the three Sikh Sikhs, Singh, Singh, and Moolan Singh, who are, we are told, in the hands of the Government will delay their transportation to Singapore until another reference can be made to the Court of Directors, with the view of obtaining a mitigation of their sentence. Their confinement in Fort William will put any attempt at a rescue on the part of their countrymen, out of the question, and there can be no necessity for subjecting them to the additional deprivation, and to the religious delinquency of a voyage beyond seas.

—We are glad to perceive from a General Order of the 1st January, that Sir W. G. Russell is determined to carry out the policy of the Government in the retiring order of Sir Charles Napier, and to restrain as much as lies in his power the practice of Subalterns involving themselves in pecuniary entanglements. The order is rather obscurely expressed, but it is evident from its general tenor, that an officer getting into anything like "a scrape about money matters," will stand little chance with the Commander-in-Chief.

—The following letter from Major Agnew to the Shareholders of the North West Bank, is extracted from the *Herkara* of this morning:—"I have twice addressed the Directors requesting them to sanction an account of the accounts by independent and competent parties, as the only

means by which I shall be enabled to vindicate my moral character in the eyes of my friends and the public; and this I think, was due to me as well as to the Bank. I have letters have not met with attention, or been replied to, and I have now nothing left but to appeal to you. Some of the Directors having applied to a Court of Law have induced me to refrain from doing so, but I still feel that I have intended. I will not attempt to estimate any party or create further discord, for, though I feel deeply injured by the manner in which the Directors have treated me, if in my power, save the institution from further ruin."

—The *Herkara* mentions that the *Steamer Transvaal* after bringing treasure from Madras, is to be employed in conveying the Regulations of Native Affairs, to relieve the two Regiments now stationed in Arracan.

—The First Quarterly General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Bengal Medical Refining Fund was held at the Townhall, on Monday, 18th January, and the business transacted was of little importance. The votes on the case of Dr. Goodhue are still in course of circulation, and no result has yet been obtained. In the case of Dr. H. Hill, who had not paid any subscription to the Fund since 1865, it was resolved by a considerable majority of the subscribers, that Dr. Hill be no longer considered a subscriber. It had been proposed by the Medical Association, that the President, Messrs. D. H. Hill, and Aggra circles, that no Quarterly Meeting should be constituted, unless nine members were present, and that the meeting was of opinion that seven was a better number, and a difficulty was created by a greater number of the Presidency Medical men had already been demonstrated, though it exceeds Twenty-five.

—The Army Head Quarters were expected at Aggra on the 20th instant.

We are happy to observe that Aggra Gills, the officer selected by the Government of Bombay to carry out the freemen of the well known caves of Aggra, has prevailed so far with his task as to have procured three paintings, each ten feet square, and containing facsimiles of the three best frescoes in the caves. The works are said to be specially executed, and they will probably be engraved for general circulation. The *Bombay Times* believes the pictures to be of the highest artistic value, between Western India, and Egypt, a conjecture which, though not improbable in itself, will require very careful consideration.

—The same journal mentions that the new Governor of Portuguese India, Baron Omei (7) arrived in Bombay on the 6th instant, and landed under a salute of nineteen guns. He is being received at the residence of his reception, but he preferred residing with the Portuguese Consul, M. Bras Fernandez, at Bandora. The title of Governor General is becoming rather common in the East. There is a Governor General of the Kingdom of Siam, a second of Portuguese India, a third of French India, and a fourth of British India, but the latter is the Governor General.

—The *Bombay Herald and Courier* in his issue of the 8th January, quotes a paragraph from the *Archivist*, a highly respectable English journal, distinctly asserting that Mr. Robert Stephenson, is about to proceed to Sumatra to survey the Indians, with the view of constructing a canal. As the passage is highly important we give it entire.—Mr. Robert Stephenson is on his way to Soerabaya, to examine the route for a ship canal between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. This survey:—1. To form part of a conjoint survey directed by England, France, and Austria, the former being represented by Mr. Stephenson, France by M. Paulin Talbot, and Austria by M. Negrelli. These latter have completed their labours; and on the completion of Mr. Stephenson's survey, the route will be determined on the combined evidence of the three reports. It is hoped that this project will be carried out, and that the work will be conducted by the French to a joint stock company. The appointment of the Austrian Engineer assumes the same reaching we first through the *Panama Journal*.

—A letter of the 21st December from Hyderabad to the *Bombay Telegraph and Courier*, gives a melancholy picture of the condition of the country. It is a picture of affairs. Instead of making any effort to collect money to pay up his debt, he wanders about to every shrine within five or six miles of his capital, and tries to propitiate them by his gifts to the priests, and to the Brahmins. He has endeavored to induce his Hindu allies as they are called, to accept four annas in the rupee, as payment of their arrears, but they have refused to do so. (We saw him last night to Madras, and he said that the *Exploitation* is saying that the Nizam had dipped the millions of his personal guard into the fund. The story refuted to be lying.)

—The *Madras Crescent* of the 8th January has come in the form of a broadsheet, as large as that of the *Madras Standard*, and greatly improved in typographical appearance.

—A *Bombay Times* informs us, that the office of Messrs. Vaid and O'Connell, to construct the Railway from Bombay to Tannah has been accepted. The estimated cost is £1,000,000 per mile for section of the line and the total charge, with ironwork included, will not be less than £7,000,000. The *Gazette* says, that two other tenders were sent in, but all at a much higher rate, than that of the *Exploitation*, estimate, was £2,000,000 for the whole line, or a

At St. Paul's Cathedral, Mr. FREDERICK W. WILSON to Mrs. EVELINA MOREHEAD.





There will remain to meet contingencies and to be carried to next year's ac- count ... ..	£3,618 18
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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

It was reported, at the	
£150,000, which the direct	
any extraordinary	
company's property.	
at £285,000, having been	
extension of the compa-	
ected, as will be present-	
er it to be desirable that	
this fund should be made.	
themselves of the fortunate	
from sea risk to the com-	
ear, to augment this fund to	
ns, viz.:-	
of the year	£7,500
it ...	...
minum for the	...
isks of the year	22,500
	30,000
amount of it, as it	
the financial year,	150,000

at of the fund will be ... £180,000  
it will, the directors consider, serve to  
tly from all extraordinary casualties the  
company's property, while it will leave  
means of making a payment of one pound  
e proprietors, on account of their risk as  
and which will be paid early in the ensuing  
proprietor, on the number of shares for which  
ntitled to the dividend now about to be de-

GOVERNMENT FOR ESTABLISHING A STEAM  
COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA, IN COMBINATION  
WITH NEW LINES IN THE EASTERN SEAS, &c.  
Particulars of the proposal made to the government  
above object, on the 22nd January last, in conse-  
quence of the public advertisement issued in the month of  
1849, were laid before you in the last half-yearly re-

port. Since then, that proposal and the proceedings of the go-  
vernment in respect to it have, as you are aware, become  
subject of much discussion both in Parliament and by  
the public press.

It can hardly create much surprise that such a proposal  
should have encountered a determined opposition, in quar-  
ters and among parties with whose interests and views it  
might be considered to interfere, and that in consequence  
much misrepresentation should have gone forth upon a  
subject of so much public importance.

The discussions, however, both in and out of Parliament,  
have led to the satisfactory result of eliciting such facts  
relative to this question, as can hardly fail to convince  
every disinterested or impartial mind, that the proposal  
made by your directors combines greater public advantages  
than it has fallen to the lot of any other private enterprise  
to offer, and that its intrinsic merits are such as can scarcely  
fail to ensure its being adopted.

Two of her Majesty's Cabinet Ministers, whose depart-  
ments are chiefly concerned with it, the Chancellor of the  
Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies,  
have publicly recorded their opinion that the order of this  
company is "a most advantageous offer for the public,"  
and that they are "most anxious to adopt it." (See Han-  
nand's Parliamentary Debates.)

After such a declaration, and looking to the urgent de-  
mands of the Australian colonists for the prompt establish-  
ment of a steam communication with the mother country,  
together with the expressed willingness of the directors at  
once to carry out that communication, and to postpone  
that part of their plan which has occasioned the difficulty  
with the East India Company, your directors cannot believe  
that any difficulties of an ordinary nature will be permitted  
to delay much longer a measure recognised by such high  
authority to be so advantageous for the public interests.

As far, however, as the pecuniary interest of this compa-  
ny is concerned, the directors feel that the acceptance or  
refusal of their offer to establish a steam communication  
with Australia, via Singapore, is of comparatively little im-  
portance. But with the desire to meet the so long and an-  
xiously expressed wishes of these important colonies, they  
considered it right to offer all the advantages which the  
present position of the Company affords, in order to re-  
move the financial difficulty which they understood to be  
the chief obstacle on the part of the government to the  
effecting of the desired measure.

In submitting the plan and proposal in question, the di-  
rectors conceive that they have removed that difficulty.  
But they consider that the terms proposed present more  
immediate advantage to the public than to the company,  
and that it would be equally, if not more conducive to  
your interests, if some other parties, possessing the means  
of ensuring its efficient development, could be found to un-  
dertake the enterprise; because such an arrangement  
could not fail of being beneficial to this Company, by in-  
creasing the traffic on its established lines, while it would  
be exempted from the risk of loss, which almost invariably  
attends the opening of a new line of ocean steam commu-  
nication.

EXTENSION OF THE COMPANY'S OPERATIONS, INDEPEN-  
DENTLY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSAL TO GO-  
VERNMENT.

A direct line of steam communication between Bengal,  
Penang, Singapore, and China, having been for some time  
past urgently desired by the merchants and others at Cal-  
cutta and its vicinity, the directors have determined to  
open experimentally such a communication.

With this view, they have ordered the *Lady Mary Wood*,  
(which vessel they have been compelled as hereinafter ex-  
plained to withdraw from the Hong-Kong and Shanghai ser-  
vice,) to proceed to Calcutta to open a communication be-  
tween that port, Penang, Singapore and China. They are  
also fitting out for this service the *Erim*, of 850 tons, and 210  
horse power, which will proceed from Southampton, in the  
course of a month, for Calcutta, and will be followed by  
another suitable vessel for the same destination and ser-  
vice.

The directors consider that this branch service, worked  
as a merely commercial and passenger line, in such man-  
ner and at such seasons as the traffic may require, and as  
may be found most advantageous to the company, unfet-  
tered by any mail contract will prove remunerative. Its

conversion into a regular postal communication may sub-  
sequently be effected, as part of the proposal now before  
the Government, should that proposal be definitely adopt-  
ed.

## INCREASE OF THE COMPANY'S FLEET.

The two new ships, mentioned in last year's Report as  
in progress of construction at Glasgow, are now nearly  
complete for sea. They have been named the *Singapore*  
and *Ganges*, are of 1,200 tons, and 500 horse power each,  
and in speed, and all other needful qualifications, are esti-  
mated, by competent judges, not to be inferior to any  
ocean steam vessels now afloat. The *Singapore* is on the  
point of proceeding to Liverpool, whence she will take a  
cargo and passengers for Malta and Constantinople, and  
will shortly be followed, for the same destination, by the  
*Ganges*.

In order further to maintain the company's fleet in full  
efficiency, and to meet the increasing requirements of its  
trade, as well as to avail themselves of all the most recent  
improvements in steam navigation, the directors have de-  
termined to contract for the construction of the following  
vessels, viz.:-

Two steam vessels of 800 horse power, and about 2,000  
tons each, for the Southampton and Alexandria service.  
One vessel of about 800 tons and 300 horse power, for  
the Home service.

Two vessels of 1,100 tons each, with screw propellers  
and engines of 250 horse power each, intended for cargo  
vessels.

## INCREASE OF THE COMPANY'S CAPITAL.

Looking to the outlay which will be required for the  
construction of the five additional vessels abovementioned  
— to the expediency of maintaining the company in a per-  
fectly independent position in respect to its finances, and  
the probability of a still further and considerable addition  
to its fleet being required, in the event of the plan and  
proposal submitted to the Government being adopted, the  
directors consider the time has arrived when they may  
carry into effect the resolution of the general meeting,  
held 30th of May last, for increasing the capital by the  
creation and issue of 10,000 shares of £50 each, to rep-  
resent the half million capital remaining to be called up.

They accordingly propose, as formerly intimated, to  
allot the new shares, at par, to the holders of the present  
shares, in the proportion of one new share to every two of  
the present shares for which proprietors may stand re-  
gistered in the company's books on the 31st December  
instant. A deposit of £5 per share to be paid into the  
company's bankers, on producing a receipt for which,  
the shares will be duly registered, and a certificate given  
to the holder.

The deposits to be entitled to dividend on and after the  
1st April, 1851; and all shares not taken up by the 31st  
March next (except by shareholders resident in India, to  
whom a further time will be allowed), will be considered  
as declined, and will be appropriated to the general ben-  
efit of the company.

As no half shares can be allotted, parties holding only  
one, or an odd number of old shares, if they cannot other-  
wise arrange, may, by giving a written order to the Sec-  
retary, assign their interest in half a new share to some  
other shareholder having an odd number of old shares,  
who will upon such order be registered for the share so  
assigned.

## TRANSIT THROUGH EGYPT.

The directors have much satisfaction in being able to  
inform you, that His Highness the Pacha of Egypt con-  
tinues to manifest the same solicitude for improving the ar-  
rangements for the transit of passengers and goods to and  
from India, &c., through that country, for which he has  
been distinguished since his accession to his present high  
office.

His Highness has also given additional proofs of his  
friendly feelings towards the company, and of his entire  
confidence in the directors—having placed the construc-  
tion of a very large steam frigate, and some smaller ves-  
sels for the Nile Service, under their superintendence.

The representations of the company's agent in Egypt,  
in respect to any required improvements in the transit ar-  
rangements, continue also to meet prompt attention from  
the Pacha's ministers and officers.

## WITHDRAWAL OF THE "LADY MARY WOOD" FROM THE

NORTHERN PORTS OF THE CHINA STATION.  
The directors informed you in their last half-yearly re-  
port, that they had placed the company's steam vessel, the  
*Lady Mary Wood* to ply on the north coast of China,  
between Hong Kong and Shanghai.

The earnings of this vessel, up to the month of July  
last, proved remunerative to the company, and her ser-  
vices on this line were highly appreciated by most of the  
merchants and other residents in China, as a means of fa-  
cilitating commercial intercourse, as a check to piracy, and  
as a postal communication.

In regard to the latter, memorials, numerous and in-  
fluentially signed, have recently been forwarded from  
China, and also from Bombay, praying her Majesty's go-  
vernment to enter into an arrangement with this company  
to secure a regular and permanent steam postal commu-  
nication on that line.

A circumstance, however, occurred in June last, at  
Shanghai, which has compelled the directors to order this  
vessel to be withdrawn from that station.

It appears that in taking up this line of service, the  
steamer became placed in competition with a certain class  
of British sailing vessels trading on the same coast.

These sailing vessels are in the habit of discharging  
and receiving their cargoes at a place called Woosung,  
which is 13 miles distant, by water, from Shanghai, and is  
considered beyond the limits of that port, and consequen-  
tly out of the jurisdiction of the British Consul. Vessels  
using this place are, therefore, exempt from port charges;  
and, having to deal only with the Chinese authorities, mer-  
chants and others, shipping goods, obtain certain privi-  
leges and exemptions, it appears, in respect of duties,  
which they cannot obtain at Shanghai.

The company's agents in China had adopted the same  
arrangements for the *Lady Mary Wood*, in respect to  
her using the anchorage at Woosung for receiving cargo,  
&c., as were practised by her competitors, the sailing ves-  
sels.

In the month of June last, however, the resident par-  
tner, at Shanghai, of an extensive mercantile firm in China,  
largely interested in the ownership of these sailing vessels,  
sent a large quantity of silk from Shanghai on board the

"*Lady Mary Wood*," at Woosung, upon which it appeared  
that the Chinese export duty had not been paid.

The transaction was conducted in so open a manner  
that the Chinese Custom-house authorities felt themselves  
obliged, as it appears, to claim the interference of the  
British Consul at Shanghai in the matter, who fined the  
shipper 200 dollars; and on the return of the "*Lady Mary  
Wood*" to the port, the Master was also fined, by the Con-  
sul, 200 dollars, for an alleged breach of the port regula-  
tions, and was ordered by the Consul not to use the an-  
chorage of Woosung in future, but to discharge and load  
at Shanghai.

This compulsory arrangement not only subjected the  
vessel to a heavy amount of port charges, but deprived  
merchants, &c., of those privileges which they are said to  
obtain from the Chinese authorities by shipping goods on  
board vessels at Woosung.

Meanwhile, the sailing vessels, her competitors, con-  
tinue to discharge and load at Woosung without injeunc-  
tion.

The steamer was, consequently, besides being subjected  
to heavy port charges, no longer made use of for the con-  
veyance of silks and other valuable articles, except to an  
inconsiderable extent; and her earnings, therefore, be-  
coming insufficient to cover her expenses, the directors  
have ordered her to be withdrawn from that service.

The directors are about to make a representation of the  
circumstances to her Majesty's Secretary of State for  
Foreign Affairs, and hope some such equitable regulations  
in respect thereof may be made, as will enable them to  
resume a line of service which has been so much appre-  
ciated by the great majority of British residents in India  
and China.

## APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR.

It is with deep regret that the directors have to report  
the decease of Jameson Hunter, Esq., one of the auditors  
of the company.

At a special meeting of proprietors, held on the 12th ul-  
timo, for the purpose of electing a qualified proprietor to  
fill the vacant office, Raikes Currie, Esq., M. P., was un-  
animously elected to it.

The directors feel assured that the well known position  
of this gentleman in commercial life will ensure the appro-  
bation of the shareholders at large of the choice made by  
the special meeting.

As this report completes the first ten years of the com-  
pany's establishment, the directors may be permitted to  
offer one or two observations on its past history, its pre-  
sent position, and its future prospects.

If its progress up to the present time has been marked  
by a degree of prosperity which few enterprises of a simi-  
lar nature have been fortunate enough to experience, that  
prosperity, they venture to assert, has not proceeded so  
much from adventitious circumstances, as from the active  
and judicious exertions which have been successfully made  
to render it instrumental in promoting the public interests.

It has never been entrusted with any of the public ser-  
vices in which it is now employed, until it had first placed  
itself, by its own enterprise, in a position to undertake  
them on more favourable terms for the public than could  
be otherwise obtained; and it has executed those services  
with efficiency—to the due fulfilment of its contracts, and  
to the satisfaction of the government.

It has now attained to a magnitude considerably sur-  
passing that of any other private Steam Navigation enter-  
prise. Means have been provided for maintaining the in-  
tegrity of its property, and the position which it has now  
acquired enables it to execute any future services which it  
may be called upon to undertake, for the improvement of  
either commercial or postal intercourse, on more advan-  
tageous terms for the public than any new enterprise can of-  
fer; and, on these solid grounds, the directors consider  
that you may look with confidence to its future progress  
and continued success.

The directors now recommend that the usual dividend  
of 4 per cent., for the half-year ending on the 30th of  
September last, be declared, and be made payable on and  
after the 23d inst.

The report was received with applause.

## Steam Fleet of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company.

		Tons.	Horse-Power.
HINDOSTAN, ...		1800	520
BENTIRCK, ...		1800	520
PRECURSOR, ...	Suez and Calcutta	1800	540
HADDINGTON, ...	Service.	1500	500
ORIENTAL, ...		1600	500
PEKIN, ...		1180	450
ACHILLES, ...	Bombay and China	1000	450
MALTA, ...	Service.	1225	450
BRABHANA, ...		800	280
LADY MARY WOOD, ...	Hong Kong and	650	260
CANTON, ...	Canton Local Service.	400	150
INDUS, ...		1400	450
RIFON, ...	Southern and	1500	450
POTTINGER, ...	Alexandria Service.	1400	450
SULTAN, ...		1100	400
EXETER, ...	Constantinople and	1100	400
TAGUS, ...	Black Sea Service.	900	280
ERIN, ...		850	280
MONTROSE, ...		650	240
IBERIA, ...		600	200
PACHA, ...	Peninsular Service.	600	210
JUPITER, ...		600	200
BLADON, ...		500	180
SINGAPORE, ...		1200	500
GANGES, ...	New Service.	1200	500
		27155	9310

—Globe.

A MOST DISCREDITABLE GAMBLING TRANSAC-  
TION at Simla has given rise to a court of inquiry. Three  
officers and a member of the civil service had been playing  
for high stakes with cards subsequently discovered to be  
marked. Two of the officers are acquitted by Sir Charles  
Napier and by the public of any guilty participation in  
the transaction; the guilt lies between the remaining  
officer and the civilian, of whom the former lost heavily,  
while the latter was the principal winner. —*Patriot*, Decem-  
ber 6.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

ORDERS BY THE HONORABLE THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF

BENGAL.

APPOINTMENTS.

9th January, 1851.

Mr. H. C. Hamilton to officiate as Salt Agent of Tumlook, during the absence of Mr. C. Bury, or until further orders.

10th January, 1851.

Mr. G. S. Judge to officiate as Clerk to the Court of Small Causes at Calcutta, during the absence of Mr. J. King, or until further orders.

Lieutenant C. A. Nicholson to be in charge of the office of Superintendent and of the Treasury at Darjeeling during the absence of Dr. A. Campbell, on duty in the interior.

11th January, 1851.

The following Gentlemen to be a Standing Committee for the Examination of Candidates for the office of Pleader at the Presidency:

Mr. C. Tucker, President.

Messrs. A. Dick, W. B. Jackson, E. Currie, J. Dunbar, H. T. Raikes, C. B. Trevor, E. A. Sannella, and Baboo Hurrochunder Ghose—the four last named Gentlemen *ex-officio*, Members.

13th January, 1851.

Mr. A. R. Young to officiate as Superintendent of the Bhargulpore Survey, during the absence on leave of Mr. R. N. Shore, or until further orders. Mr. Young is vested with the full powers of a Collector under Regulations 7 of 1822 and 9 of 1825, in the Districts of Purileah, Bhargulpore, Dinagopore, Rungpore, Mahla, Monghyr, Beerbhoom, and Moorshedabad.

Mr. R. N. Farguharson to officiate as Civil and Sessions Judge of West Burdwan, during the absence of Mr. C. Garstin, or until further orders.

Moulvie Tufuzool Hossain to officiate as Additional Principal Sudder Ameen at Sarun, until further orders.

Moulvie Sujad Ali Khan to officiate as Sudder Ameen and Mousuff at Patna, during the absence of Moulvie Tufuzool Hossain, or until further orders.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

30th December, 1850.

Mr. G. Campbell, of the Civil Service, has been permitted to proceed to England, under medical certificate on Junior Furlough.

7th January, 1851.

Baboo Lokenath Bose, Principal Sudder Ameen of Hooghly, for fourteen days, in extension of the leave granted to him under date the 9th December last.

8th January, 1851.

Mr. W. Travers, Collector of Shahabad, for one month, under Section 11 of the Amended Absentee Rules, making over charge of his office to the Assistant Mr. R. J. Richardson, who will conduct the duties thereof during Mr. Travers' absence, or until further orders.

The unexpired portion of the leave of absence granted to Mr. W. H. Elliott, Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs, in Orders of the 6th November, has been cancelled from the 2d December last, the date on which he resumed charge of his office.

Mr. T. E. Ravenshaw, Assistant to the Magistrate and the Collector of Backergunge, having joined his Station on the 22d ultimo, the remaining portion of the leave granted to him under date the 18th November, has been cancelled.

The Rev. W. Winchester, Chaplain of Berhampore, is permitted to proceed to Europe, on Furlough. The leave of absence, for one month, granted to that Gentleman by the Lord Bishop to visit the Presidency, is confirmed.

11th January, 1851.

Mr. Welby B. Jackson, a Judge of the Court of the Sudder Dewanny and Nizamut Adawlut, for one month, under Section 11 of the Amended Absentee Rules, from the date on which he may avail himself of the same.

13th January, 1851.

Mr. R. N. Shore, Superintendent of the Bhargulpore Survey, for two months, on private affairs, under the old Rules of 1840.

Mr. W. T. Trotter, Collector of Rungpore, for one month, under Section 11 of the Amended Absentee Rules, from the date on which he may make over charge of the Treasury and current duties of his office to Mr. C. E. Lance, the Assistant to the Collector.

The leave of absence, on private affairs, granted by the Commissioner of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, to the Rev. A. Garstin, Chaplain of Sylhet, for one month, from the date on which he may avail himself of it, has been confirmed.

NOTIFICATIONS.

10th January, 1851.

Captain T. Brodie, Principal Assistant to the Commissioner of Assam at Seebasgur, resumed charge of his Revenue and Judicial Offices and Treasury at that Station, from Mr. Sub-Assistant J. Thornton, on the 23d ultimo.

Mr. G. A. Paxton assumed charge of the Sub-Division of Sereganje on the 28th ultimo.

Mr. E. P. Harrison, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Bograh, received charge of his Offices from Mr. H. Rose on the 2d instant.

Mr. E. F. Radcliffe, Officiating Deputy Collector of Noakolly, has been permitted to make over charge of the Treasury to Baboo Rangopaul Roy, Deputy Collector, under Regulation 9 of 1833, in that district.

Mr. H. M. Reid, Officiating Deputy Collector of Furreepore, made over charge of the Treasury to Mr. W. Costley, Deputy Collector, under Regulation 9 of 1833, on the 30th November last, to proceed into the Mofussil and resumed charge of it on the 11th ultimo.

Mr. C. T. Buckland, received charge of the Collectorate of Hooghly from Mr. E. T. Trevor on the 4th instant.

Mr. C. Bury made over charge of the Offices of Salt Agent and Superintendent of Tumlook Salt Chokles to his Assistant Mr. J. V. Forbes on the 4th instant.

Mr. H. R. Madocks made over charge of the Sub-Division of Buhori in Tirhoot to Mr. T. C. Trotter, Magistrate of that District, on the 4th instant, preparatory to proceeding to the Punjab.

The Rev. F. Fisher reported his return from Europe on the steamer "Hindoostan," which arrived at the Sand Heads on the 4th instant.

The Rev. J. E. W. Rotton, appointed by the Hon'ble

the Court of Directors as an Assistant Chaplain on the Bengal Establishment, reported his arrival on the steamer "Hindoostan," which reached the Sand Heads on the 4th instant.

Mr. F. Cardew, Civil and Sessions Judge of Hooghly, received charge of his Office from Mr. F. W. Russell on the 6th instant.

Mr. W. J. H. Money, Civil and Sessions Judge of Backergunge, reported his return to the Presidency in the steam ship "Hindoostan," which reached the Sand Heads on the 4th instant.

The leave of absence granted in Orders of the 7th April 1848, to Mr. B. J. Bramey, Civil Assistant Surgeon of Chupra, for four months, on medical certificate, is to be considered as leave granted to proceed to the Presidency preparatory to applying for leave to Sea.

11th January, 1851.  
Mr. R. N. Shore, of the Civil Service, has been admitted to a Furlough of the present season.

14th January, 1851.  
Mr. C. Jenkins, appointed by the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, a Member of the Civil Service on the Bengal Establishment, reported his arrival at the Presidency on the 27th ultimo.

Lieutenant F. W. Ripley, Officiating Junior Assistant to the Commissioner of Arracan, received charge of his Office from Lieutenant D. A. Chase on the 30th ultimo, on his return from Sandown.

Mr. H. V. Hathorn, Civil and Sessions Judge of Sarun, made over charge of the current duties of his Office to Mirza Mahomed Suluck, the Principal Sudder Ameen, on the 6th instant, preparatory to proceeding to Mooteeharry on Seasonal duty.

Mr. H. Rose, Assistant to the Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Pubna, returned to his station on the 4th instant.

Mr. E. F. Radcliffe, Officiating Deputy Collector of Noakolly, resumed charge of the Treasury on the 13th ultimo, from Baboo Rangopaul Roy, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9 of 1833, in that District.

Mr. E. Lantour, Officiating Collector of Chittagong, made over charge of the Treasury to Mr. F. C. Fowle, Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on the 16th ultimo, preparatory to proceeding into the interior on public duty.

Mr. J. R. Ward, Assistant to the Magistrate and the Collector of Hooghly, joined his station on the 6th instant.

Dr. F. J. Mount, Secretary to the Council of Education, reported his departure to Sea in the steamer "Haddington," which vessel was left by the Pilot at Sea on the 16th instant.

Mr. W. Travers, Collector of Shahabad, re-assumed charge of the Collectorate from Syud Azimooddeen Hossain, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9 of 1833, on the 2d instant.

Mr. G. Campbell, of the Civil Service, reported his departure for England in the steamer "Haddington," which vessel was left by the Pilot at Sea on the 16th instant.

Mr. W. J. Allen, Officiating Magistrate, Collector, Salt Agent and Collector of Customs at Balasore, made over charge of the Treasury to Mr. R. Alexander on the 11th instant, to proceed into the interior of the District on public duty.

J. P. GRANT, Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Fort William, 9th January, 1851.

The President in Council is pleased to place the services of the Rev. J. E. W. Rotton, Assistant Chaplain, at the disposal of the Hon'ble the Deputy Governor of Bengal.

10th January, 1851.

The Rev. H. B. Burney, Assistant Chaplain, embarked for England on board the ship "Ellenborough," which vessel was left by the Pilot at Sea on the 7th instant.

The Rev. F. Fisher, Chaplain, reported his return from Furlough on the 4th instant. The President in Council is pleased to place the services of that Gentleman at the disposal of the Government of Bengal.

F. J. HALLIDAY, Secy. to the Govt. of India.

APPOINTMENTS.

Fort William, 10th January, 1851.

Mr. J. J. Harvey to officiate as Sub-Treasurer from the 1st February, (proximo,) vice Mr. G. Udny.

14th January, 1851.

Surgeon W. B. O'Shaughnessy, M. D., will officiate as Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, during Mr. Dodd's absence, or until further orders.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

10th January, 1851.

Mr. G. Udny, Sub-Treasurer, for one month, from the 8th February, (proximo,) preparatory to applying for permission to resign the service of the East India Company.

NOTIFICATION.

14th January, 1851.

Assistant Surgeon James Dodd, Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, is permitted to be absent from his duties for two years, on medical certificate.

J. A. DORRIS, Secy. to the Govt. of India.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Camp Waseerahabad, 27th December, 1850.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to grant to Mr. F. A. B. Glover, Deputy Commissioner of the 3d Class in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, one month's leave of absence, on private affairs, from the 1st January 1851.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to grant Lieutenant R. Young, Assistant Commissioner, Dehra Ghazee Khan, leave of absence, on medical certificate, from the 1st instant to the 1st December 1851, to visit the Hills, North of Dehra.

The leave of absence, preparatory to embarkation for England, under Sections 11 and 12 of the Absentee Rules, granted to Mr. R. Cust, Deputy Commissioner of Umballa, in General Orders of the 26th August last, No. 1200, has been extended to the 1st January next.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to confirm the following Regimental Order issued by the Officer Commanding the 3d Regiment Punjab Infantry, under date the 3d instant:

"Camp Equipage having been received to-day from the Ferozepore Magazine, the Quarter Master is directed to

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entertain the usual Establishment of 1 Tindal, 8 Lascars and 2 Beldars from the 4th instant."

28th December, 1850.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to make the following Officiating Appointments in His Highness the Nizam's Army:

Brigadier J. Johnston, Commanding the Hingolee Division, to the Command of the Ellichpore Division, during the absence of Brigadier Mackenzie.

Captain G. F. C. Fitzgerald, Commanding 1st Company Artillery and Commissary of Ordnance, to the Command of the Hingolee Division, vice Brigadier Johnston.

30th December, 1850.

Lieutenant J. M. Cripps, at present on leave at Simla, is appointed temporarily to act as Assistant to the Superintendent Hill States and Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Simla, vice Mr. Forsyth.

The Governor General is pleased to grant Mr. P. Melvill, Secretary to the Board of Administration of the Punjab, leave of absence for fifteen days, on urgent private affairs from the date he may quit Lahore.

Major H. P. Burn, Deputy Secretary, to officiate as Secretary during the absence of Mr. Melvill in addition to his own duties.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to attach Assistant Surgeon T. L. Bell, of the Madras Establishment, to the Medical Branch of His Highness the Nizam's Army.

Lieutenant Colonel G. St. P. Lawrence received charge of the Meywar Political Agency from Captain Showers on the 24th ultimo.

1st January, 1851.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to appoint Assistant Surgeon Charles Timins, of the Madras Service, to the Medical charge of the Bhopal Contingent and Agency.

2d January, 1851.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to appoint Mr. William Wood, an Extra Assistant in the Punjab and to the charge of the Treasury at Dehra Ghazee Khan, with effect from the 1st ultimo.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to appoint Khoshee Ram, the Serishtadar of the Settlement Office, in the Cis Sutlej States, to act as Deputy Collector, during the absence of Kallee Rao.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to grant Captain D. Wilkie, Bheel Agent and in charge of the Political duties at Bhopawur, leave of absence, on private affairs, from the 15th February to the 15th March next, to visit Bombay, preparatory to proceeding, on Furlough, to Europe.

The following Appointments are made consequent upon the departure, on Furlough, of Captain Wilkie:

Captain W. Y. Siddons, 63d Regiment Bengal N. I. and Deputy Bheel Agent, to be Bheel Agent.

Lieutenant A. R. E. Hutchinson, 13th Regiment Bengal N. I. and Adjutant of Infantry of the United Malwa Contingent, to be Deputy Bheel Agent.

Lieutenant T. Edwards, 46th Regiment Bengal N. I., to be Adjutant of Infantry in the United Malwa Contingent.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to grant Captain J. F. Stevens, Superintendent of Roads, in the Nagpore Territory, leave of absence, under medical certificate, for six months from the 1st instant, to proceed to Bombay, the Neilgherry Hills and to Sea, for the recovery of his health.

Captain Snow, 24th Regiment Madras Native Infantry is appointed to officiate for Captain Stevens, during his absence.

Captain W. C. Western, 32d Madras Native Infantry, received charge of the Office of 3d Class Deputy Commissioner at Hoshungabad, in the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, on the 16th July last.

3d January, 1851.

The Most Noble the Governor General has been pleased to grant to Captain M. T. Blake, Commanding 2d Regiment of Infantry, Scindiah's Contingent, leave of absence, under medical certificate, from the 1st of March to 31st December next, to enable him to visit the Mussooree and Simla Hills.

H. M. ELLIOT,

Secy. to the Govt. of India, with the Govr. Genl.

ORDERS BY THE HON'BLE THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

APPOINTMENT.

Lieutenant Governor's Camp, 31st December, 1850.

Mr. R. Money to officiate as Magistrate and Collector of Benares, during the absence of Mr. A. Shank, or till further orders.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

28th December, 1850.

Mr. J. Power, Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Futtelpoor, for one month, under Section 11 of the Amended Absentee Rules, from the date of making over charge of the duties.

Mr. J. B. Mill, Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Humeerpoor, for fifteen days, on medical certificate, under Section 6 of the Amended Absentee Rules, from the date of making over charge of his duties.

31st December, 1850.

Mr. A. Shank, Magistrate and Collector of Benares, for two months, on private affairs, under Sections 11 and 12 of the Amended Absentee Rules, from the date of making over charge of his duties.

3d January, 1851.

The leave of absence granted under Orders of the 16th November last, to Lieutenant F. J. Burgess, Assistant Revenue Surveyor, attached to the Moolbund Survey, is called at his own request.

Mr. A. C. Heyland, Judge of Ghazeepoor, for one month, under Section 11 of the Amended Absentee Rules, from the date on which he may avail himself preparatory to resigning the service.

NOTIFICATION.

7th January, 1851.

The services of the Rev. Dr. Marriott, Shahabad, are placed at the disposal of the Bengal.

J. THORSTON, Secy. to

LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

Head Quarters, 31st Jan

Shumachurn Day, Sub-Assi-







**NOTICE.**—All persons having claims against or being indebted to the estate of the late Mr. G. Mackenzie, late Extra Assistant, are requested to communicate by letter, post paid, with Major Macgregor, C. B., Deputy Commissioner of Lahore. No communications will be received after the 1st of April, 1851.

G. H. MACGREGOR,  
Deputy Commissioner of Lahore.

*In the Press, and shortly will be Published*  
**A TRANSLATION of the BAGH O'BENAR** by W. C. Hollinga. Price (8) Eight Rupees. Cash. Applications (post paid) to be made to Messrs. SANDERS, CONNOR and Co., No. 14, Loll Bazar, Calcutta; I. O. B. SANDERS, Esq., Delhi Gazette Press, Delhi; and Mr. W. C. HOLLINGA, General Agent, Calcutta.  
No copies will be forwarded unless a remittance accompany the Order.

**ON Sale at the Godowns of Messrs. Watson, Borradaile and Co.**  
J. Cockburn and Co.'s Wines—  
Pale Sherry, Green Seal, ... Co.'s Rs. 22 per doz.  
Brown, ditto ditto, ... " 22 per do.  
Port, Black Seal, ... " 22 per do.  
Brandy, Superior Pale, ... " 15 per do.

**BATHGATE AND CO.** invite attention to their Soda Water prepared from Purified Water in Silver Apparatus, and bottled by an improved Bottling Machine in pints, 3 pints and 1 pint.  
5, Old Court House Street.

**NOTICE TO OVERLAND TRAVELLERS.**—The undersigned have always on hand a large assortment of Superior Town-Made Overland Trunks and Portmanteaus, of the sizes prescribed by the P. and O. S. N. Company.

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**TO TRAVELLERS OVERLAND.**  
**PORTMANTEAUS** Overland Trunks, and Bags of assorted sizes, at moderate prices, may be had at  
T. PERRY'S,  
Waterloo Street, Calcutta.

**FOR LONDON DIRECT.**  
To Sail early in March, 1851.  
**THE New Frigate built Ship "Sutlej"** 1,200 Tons.  
Wm. Gregson, Commander.  
For terms of passage apply to  
**PEEL, BELLAIRES AND CO.**

**PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.**  
**CALCUTTA AND SUEZ LINE,**  
Steam Ships Hindostan, Oriental, Haddington, Precursor.  
**BOMBAY AND CHINA LINE,**  
Achilles, Braganza, Pekin, Malta.  
Passengers, Goods, and Parcels between Calcutta, Madras, Ceylon, and England, via Egypt, Penang, Singapore, and Hong-Kong, via Point de Galle.

**THE P. and O. S. N. Co.'s Steam-Ships** convey Her Majesty's Mails, from Calcutta for the above places on the 8th of every month, except May, June, and July, when they start five days earlier.

Passengers by these Steamers, proceeding Eastward, will be transferred at Galle to the Bombay and China Steamers, which vessels leave Galle on the arrival of the outward Mails from England.

Each vessel carries an experienced Surgeon.  
*Reduced rates of Passage Money.*  
A general berth for a Lady, including Steward's fees, ... Rs. 1,250  
Transit through Egypt, ... 120  
1,370  
A general berth for a Gentleman, including Steward's fees, ... Rs. 1,160  
Transit through Egypt, ... 120  
1,280  
And reduction for Families in proportion.  
*Reduced Rates of Passage Money for Intermediate Ports.*  
Calcutta to Madras, ... Rs. 220  
" to Galle, ... " 320  
" to Aden, ... " 765  
" to Penang, ... " 590  
" to Singapore, ... " 640  
" to Hong-Kong, ... " 940  
The above rates include Steward's fees.

ARTHUR NOT EMERSON, } Joint Agents &  
ROBERT S. WALKER, } Superintendents.  
1st January, 1851.

**PARCEL DEPARTMENT.**  
**PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL S. N. COMPANY.**  
1st.—Parcels from India to Southampton, (accompanied by a correct declaration of the value and contents,) under one quarter of a cubic foot measurement, or 6 lbs. weight, will be taken at Rs. 3, Rs. 4, and Rs. 5 each, at and over the above measurement and weight, according to the graduated scale.  
2nd.—Parcels weighing more than 20 lbs. to the cubic foot, such extra weight will be charged for, in addition, at 4 annas per lb.  
3rd.—Parcels must not exceed 80 lbs. in weight, or 5 cubic feet in measurement each.  
4th.—Parcels exceeding one cubic foot in measurement should be packed securely in Tin and Wood.  
5th.—Parcels of Jewellery, Watches, and other valuable articles are charged at 5 per Cent. on value.  
—Specie at and above the value of Rs. 2,000, charge 5 per Cent., smaller sums at from 3 to 5 per Cent.  
Delivery in England, &c. All Parcels will be rough the Custom House at Southampton, and the risk of the Shippers, to their ultimate destination, the P. and O. S. N. Company, upon payment of charges incurred in England.  
Additional information will be given on application, Parcel Department, 10, Colvin's

NOT EMERSON, } Joint Agents and  
WALKER, } Superintendents.  
20.

#### TRIESTE ROUTE.

**THE Austrian Lloyd's Steamers** continue to ply between Alexandria and Trieste, as under, viz.  
The direct leaving Trieste the 28th of each month arrives at Alexandria about the 3d or 4th of the following month, and starts for Trieste from Alexandria 18 to 20 hours after the arrival there of the India Passengers by the Calcutta Steamer, except on occasions when the latter arrives at Suez behind time.

A Steamer of the same Company leaves Alexandria every alternate Thursday for Smyrna, where it meets the steamers of the Levant line, by means of which communication is kept up as previously, through Syria with Constantinople, Greece, Trieste, &c.

Fares Direct to Trieste £18 including table money.  
Do. via Smyrna £18-4 without table money.  
Passengers intending to avail themselves of the Trieste Route should book to Suez only.

For further particulars apply to  
**MESSRS. WATSON, BORRADAILE & CO.**  
N. B.—There are now so many Railroads open through Germany, that London may be reached from Trieste in six days with comfort and at an expense of about £10 to 12.

Those who book only to Suez by the P. and O. Co. will find no difficulty in crossing the desert and reaching Alexandria at the same time and with equal facility and on like terms as all other passengers. The Egyptian Transit Administration is independent of any Company and grants no preference.

#### EDUCATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE EXIGENCIES OF THE INDIAN SERVICE.

**THE Council of the College of General, Practical, and Scientific Education** established at Putney, near London, wish to call the attention of Gentlemen connected with the public service in both branches to the advice given by the Chairman, Sir Archibald Galloway, at the half-yearly examinations at Haileybury and Adдисcombe.

In their extensive establishment at Putney, they have organized a system which secures at a moderate cost an excellent education for those whose pursuits in life require an acquaintance with science, and the practical applications of science in works of Internal improvement.

The peculiar feature of the system is to make Mathematical and Chemical Science the most prominent subjects of Instruction.

The Council have endeavored to meet as much as possible the peculiar demands which the circumstances of the times seem to require, and to engraft upon the methods of the old University system such branches of study and opportunities of actual practice as may best serve to qualify professional men for their duties.

Full particulars of the system can be obtained on applying to Messrs. Colvin, Ainslie, Cowie and Co. of Calcutta, who have kindly consented to be referees.

**R. B. RODDA, Gun Maker, Tank Square, Calcutta.**  
begs respectfully to call the attention of the Sporting World to his large stock of Double Guns and Rifles, &c. on sale at very reduced prices.  
Every description of repairs to Guns, &c. on the most approved principles, and at moderate rates.  
R. B. R. will be happy to forward a list of his prices on application.

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2½ Feet ditto, with 2½ Object Glass, 2 Stands, &c., 250  
Military Reconnoitring, ditto, from 25 to ... 60  
Naval 1 Draw ditto, from 30 to ... 60  
The Improved Opera, from 30 to ... 60  
PHOTOGRAPHIC and DAGUERRETYPE APPARATUS, complete, with Chemicals, Paper, Plates, &c., 12 inch Camera, ... 120  
Do. 2 inch, ... 150  
Do. 2½ inch, ... 220  
SPARE PLATE, CHEMICALS, &c.

Dissolving Views of very superior Construction, complete with very beautiful slides, stand, &c., ... 250  
Polyanamas or small Dissolving Views, with sets of Views, from 10 to ... 20  
Magic Lanterns, with slides, complete, from 35 to 100  
Universal Sun Dials, ... 25  
Sun Dials for Indian Latitudes, from 6 to ... 16  
Pocket Compasses, from 6 to ... 12  
Small ditto in Silver, size of a 4 anna piece, ... 12  
Improved Medical Galvanic Machines, from 50 to 120  
Aneroid Barometers, ... 40  
Improved Pocket Thermometers, ... 60  
The Opismeter, a newly invented instrument for measuring Curved Lines, ... 12

**THEODOLITES, SYKE'S HYDROMETERS, DRAWING INSTRUMENTS, MICROSCOPES, POCKET SEXTANTS, &c. &c.**—See our list of prices.

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**THE IMPROVED MINISCUS LENSES** of Messrs. Solomon are free from the pernicious tendencies of the common glasses; by their use a mollifying influence is effected on the seat of vision, and the most brilliant light transmitted through the various humors of the eye with a softness and sense of coolness, which renders them pleasing and agreeable the most at minute employment, by day or candlelight.

So Parties in the Mofasil can be suited with Spectacles by stating the number of inches they can read a moderate size print from the eye, or by sending an old pair.

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**S. AND B. SOLOMONS, Opticians.**  
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London.

#### EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

**AT a MEETING of the BOARD of DIRECTORS** held on the 5th November, 1850.

*It was Resolved.*  
That a call of £2 per Share be made on the Shares in the Company payable at the Bank of England on the 28th day of November instant, and that due notice thereof be given to the Proprietors.

*Resolved further.*  
That so much of the said call as shall be paid in India be received at the Exchange of 1s. 10d. the Rupee, and that a period of four months be allowed to Proprietors Resident out of Europe for payment of the said call.

D. J. NOAD, Secretary.  
London, 5th November, 1850.

#### EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

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the performance by the Directors of any of their duties under this Act, or of the deed of partnership." In certain cases it confers on them a free passage to Norfolk Island for branches of trust. It allows the Company to sue and be sued in its registered name, which, after reading the *Citizen's* description of the endless legal and technical botherations, now existing, we cannot but consider a magnificent boon. It provides for a true and faithful audit of the accounts, by two Auditors, not Directors or officers, who are to give in "a balance sheet, and a separate profit and loss account, shewing the amount of capital, and how invested, and the estimated value thereof, verified by affidavit of the same being made to the best of their knowledge and belief." And, in case of Insolvency, it provides against the reckless and vindictive pursuit of individual creditors,—as in the case of the great battue of the Union Bank—and establishes a most equitable mode of winding up the concern. It places the whole property of the dying Company under the safeguard of the Insolvent Court, and directs that the official Assignee shall make an approximate estimate of the amount of debts and claims on it, and assess the sum ratably among the existing shareholders, according to the number of shares held by them; and if that is insufficient, to fix the same equitable assessment on previous shareholders of three years' standing. These appear to be great and important privileges.

It is said that, notwithstanding all these precautions, there is no absolute guarantee against the misappropriation of the funds. Perhaps, it may be considered a sufficient reply to this objection, that the enjoyment even of a Charter, is no security against such a contingency. The Assam Tea Company is a chartered body, yet the former Directors contrived to muddle away nearly the whole of its capital, and the present Directors have nothing but the rump of it to work upon; that is to say, as Lord Clarendon aptly interpreted the word, the "fig end of the carcass." The Act does not provide any substitute for the vigilance of shareholders; it only gives them facilities for the exercise of that great banking virtue, and this is all that the law can, or indeed ought to do. If those whose interests are at stake choose to go to sleep, whether their money be entrusted to a chartered or to a registered company, they must take the consequences. The Act does all the law should do, by providing for an honest audit under the sanction of an oath, and a salutary publication of the accounts; by allowing the shareholders summary access to the Court, whenever the Directors are supposed to be doing the things they ought not to do, and by subjecting the latter in some cases to deportation for breaches of trust.

It is objected by the *Bombay Courier* and *Telegraph* that it prohibits Bank Directors from giving their support as customers to the Banks with which they are connected. We really think, especially with reference to local experience, that the less Bank Directors have to do with lending its money to themselves, the more they are likely to enjoy the blessing of a peaceful conscience—when they have one—and the confidence of the public. The Directors of the Union Bank "gave their support as customers" to that Bank, till they had used it of Ninety-six per cent. of its capital. It was

this unfortunate support which sent it into the gulf of bankruptcy. It is better therefore to err on the safe side: to make the rule too stringent than too lax, more especially in a country where commercial moralities are of so very peculiar a character. The *Bombay Times*, again, thinks that the Act errs in prohibiting a Company's buying up its own shares at a discount. He illustrates the remark by an allusion to the Bombay Steam Navigation Company, got up by a large number of individuals, the stock of which has for some time been selling at one-third of its original price—"why should the Company," he asks, "be precluded in this case from buying up its shares at so enormous a discount, if the wealthy portion of the shareholders think that on this they can realize sufficient returns? Many reasons must be apparent why a Company should not be allowed to dabble in its own shares, and buy them up, when through the mismanagement, or the misfortunes of the Company, they have become of little value. But the Act does not prevent these wealthy shareholders buying up as many of the shares as they like, at the lowest amount of discount on their own account. What they cannot do collectively, they may do individually. The Auditing clauses are objected to, though upon what substantial grounds, we are unable to perceive. All Companies must have their accounts audited, and the more strict and circumstantial the audit, the more will the confidence of the public be increased. The *Bombay Telegraph* says, that no scrupulously conscientious man can conform to them. But the Auditor is called only to "give the estimated value of the investment of capital, to the best of his knowledge and belief;" and we believe the most sensitive conscience need not shrink from such a duty. Finally, the *Bombay Times* says, that there are many establishments that would lose so much more by the conditions the Act imposes than they would gain by the advantages it offers, that to them the cure would be worse than the sufferings it professes to remove. We do not mean to impugn the correctness of this assertion, because we know so little comparatively of the state of commercial institutions at Bombay, in which alone our contemporary can be supposed to allude. Only, we should think that the greater the confidence which the Directors of any Joint Stock Association feel in its position and prospects, the more desirous they would be to demonstrate it to the public by the most unreserved audit and publicity. We can speak only of our own Presidency, and, surrounded as we are with the wrecks of so many institutions, we think there is no establishment among us which has not more to gain than to lose by availing itself of the new law, and that, an indisposition to register will assuredly be followed by the total withdrawal of all public confidence.

## THE COPPER CURRENCY OF THE COUNTRY.

It is gratifying to learn from a recent Circular Order of the Sudder Board, that the Court of Directors are anxious to introduce a copper currency into this Presidency, of smaller value than the Piece, which may be acceptable to the native community. At present, the small purchases of the poorer classes, that is, of ninety-nine out of a hundred, are made in Cowries. But while their receipts are given in the cur-

rent coin of the realm, whether silver or copper, which has a fixed value, their small payments are made in a coinage, that of cowries, the value of which is subject to the greatest fluctuation. At one period they can obtain 160 cowries for a pie, at another only 100. This fluctuation cannot fail to inflict on them both great inconvenience and serious loss, and it becomes the duty of the State to use every effort to relieve them from this disadvantage, by the issue of coins of the fractional part of a pie, of a definite value. The subject has long been before Government, and in the year 1838, a copper coinage of the value of a pie, or the one-twelfth of an anna pie, was struck, but, this division of money is of English origin, and altogether foreign to the habits of the people; the coin has therefore never become popular, and has fallen into complete disuse. This circumstance has been repeatedly pointed out, and appears at length to have attracted the attention of the Court of Directors, who have strongly recommended, though they do not appear to have peremptorily enjoined, the issue of a coinage of the value of half a pie. The proposal has been referred for report to the various Collectors, and there can be no doubt that they will earnestly support it. Such a coin will be in the highest degree acceptable to the whole native population, it will even be received with feelings of gratitude. It will enable them to dispense in a great measure with the use of cowries in their daily dealings, and relieve them from the impositions to which the use of those shells subjects them. On the other hand, it will be one of the most interesting and profitable undertakings of Government. The number of pieces of copper coinage issued within thirteen years after the machinery of the new Mint was completed, amounted to 525 millions, and there can be no doubt that double that number of half pie pieces will be necessary to supply the wants of the country. While the seigniorage on gold coin in the Calcutta Mint, is one per cent, and that on silver two per cent, the seigniorage on Copper coinage is calculated at not less than sixteen per cent. The Report on the Civil Charges of the Lower Provinces sent in to Lord Ellenborough in 1844, informs us that the "Government gain, consisting of the difference between the Invoice price of Copper and its value as Coin, during those thirteen years, was Twenty-five lakhs of Rupees." The introduction of this coin of a moiety of a Pie, will, therefore, not only promote in the highest degree the convenience of the people at large, but also assist the financial interests of Government.

**THE JUBBULPORE FACTORY.**—In our issue of the 2nd January, when alluding to the increase in the demand for articles manufactured by the Thugs confined at Jubbulpore, we stated on the authority of the *Bombay Times*, that Mr. Williams, the able and energetic Superintendent of that establishment, received only the paltry remuneration of Rs. 150 a month. We were thus led to enquire what appeared to be a display of parsimony on the part of Government, towards one of its most active and experienced servants. We are happy to be able to state that both the *Bombay Times* and ourselves have been misled. Mr. Williams, it is true, receives a salary of Rs. 150 a month from Government, but he is also allowed a commission of three per cent. upon the sale of all the articles produced in the Factory under his management. This commission has for the last four years averaged ninety rupees a month, and during the last six months has increased to one hundred and fifty rupees, and it has by no means reach-

ed its limit. Mr. Williams is, moreover, furnished by Government with an excellent house, rent free, and a large garden, and is assisted in the cultivation of it by convict labour. His net emoluments from salary and allowances may, therefore, be taken at Rs. 350 a month, and although we cannot say that we think this an adequate remuneration for one who has done so much both for the country and for Government as Mr. Williams, it removes from the public Authorities the imputation of excessive parsimony.

There is scarcely any fact with which we are acquainted, which exhibits in so strong a light, the determined indolence of the Indian Authorities to any thing like publicity, as their refusal or neglect to publish a report of the history, state, and prospects of this noble Institution. It cannot be supposed that they are afraid of such a publication, for the whole proceeding, from the first attempt to reclaim the Thugs, to the present moment, reflects nothing but credit on the wisdom, humanity, and energy of all those who have been engaged in the undertaking. Neither can it be said that the details are too insignificant, or too local in their interest to deserve an elaborate report, because a history of the rise, progress, and success of such an Institution, independently of its value as a guide to future efforts, would be a great addition to that mass of facts, from which we hope to see an improved system for the punishment of crime eliminated. The complete reclamation, during one generation, of a race, whose profession was bloodshed, and whose only worship was deliberate murder, is one of the most remarkable and the most gratifying facts in the history of prison discipline. There are now in the Jubbulpore Factory no less than seven hundred Thugs, to whom this description will apply, exclusive of a great number of children, and they are all actively engaged, under the superintendence of Mr. Williams, in making carpets, and weaving carpets and namaking tents, and wearing carpets and namaking tents.

Through the unremitting care and attention of that officer, these convicts have become so skilled in their own department of labour, that this great establishment has become almost entirely self supporting, and the great problem of maintaining convicts without expense to the state, would appear, in this case, to have been solved. Nor have these efforts been relaxed on account of the success that has attended them. On the contrary, it has been determined, by keeping the scale of charges for manufactured articles down to the lowest possible point, to extend their sale, until they afford occupation to all the children of the Thugs, and thus prevent the possibility of their returning to their hereditary occupation. Regarding the third generation, there can be no apprehension, as there is an extreme disinclination on the part of the elder convicts to allude to the transactions of their past lives, and when the influence of tradition is worn out, their descendants will return to the ordinary occupations of the people around them. Their reformation, moreover, furnishes an illustration of another fact in prison discipline, viz. the comparative efficacy of severity and kindness. So perfect is the order and discipline maintained by the judicious firmness of Mr. Williams, that during the last twelve months, among seven hundred convicts, there have been only three instances in which punishment has been found necessary, and even then a small fine, or the withdrawal of some slight indulgence, was found amply sufficient. So singular an instance of a successful attempt at reformation, has rarely been exhibited, and a report embodying a complete

and minute detail of the measures by which this work has been accomplished, would be received with avidity in Europe, and redound in no small degree to the credit of the Indian Government.

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE AT THIS PRESIDENCY.**—Some little time back we had occasion to review Mr. Macpherson's valuable work on Civil Procedure, and we reserved for future consideration his remarks on the defects in the present constitution of the Zillah Courts. He says, "It appears to me that to adapt the Indian judicial system to the increasing variety and importance of the subjects which are now adjudicated upon, there are needed a more special preparation of the Judges for the exercise of their calling, and a comprehensive statement of the law in the form of a code or authoritative Digest." He suggests that "young men who are intended for the judicial branch of the Civil Service, should, after going through the ordinary course of education, receive a more specially judicial training; that an opportunity should be afforded them of acquiring, not indeed a profound knowledge of law, but something of a legal habit of mind, by attending at the Chambers of a practicing barrister, and in the Courts, and perhaps also by attending the law lectures recently established in London." This proposal has reference to an arrangement which can only be made three years hence, at the termination of the present Charter, and the effect of which cannot be apparent in India for many years to come. As a more immediate improvement, he desires that the Judges "should be earlier familiarized in India with the administration of Civil Justice;" and he adds in a note, "I can scarcely venture to go into detail upon this subject, but it seems probable that after being employed under a Collector for a year or two, at the utmost, they might be employed as Assistants to the Register of the Sudder Court, or to the Legal Remembrancer, and that the office of Register might be revived in the Mofussil Courts, and might be so modified, as to secure a great improvement in the administration of Justice."

It is just twenty years since the judicial establishments at this Presidency were remodelled under the auspices of that great reformer, Lord William Bentinck. But although the country has reason to acknowledge with gratitude, the many beneficial improvements which he gave to the cause of improvement,—which impulse however is now unhappily expended,—yet, it is universally felt that the elements made at that time in the constitution of the Zillah Courts, have proved a complete and most lamentable failure. The administration of justice under this system has become so deteriorated, as to be the object of universal complaint. No one, either in the service or out of it, ever attempts to defend, or even to palliate it. In many other respects, the measure which is cast on the Civil Service and the institutions entrusted to them, is often traced up to invidious or factious feelings; but in reference to the Civil Courts over which the Covenanted Judges preside, there is the same feeling of dissatisfaction, both among the members of Government and the community at large.

The cause of this deterioration is palpable. The Civil Judge takes his seat on the Bench without any adequate preparation for his duties. He has never had occasion to open a book on Civil law, or to look into a Regulation or a Constitution, or a Precedent. Of the members of the Civil Service in the Lower Provinces,

fully four-fifths are employed in the three departments of Civil, and Criminal and Fiscal duty and the gradation of appointment stands thus. On being declared by the College authorities qualified for the public service, by proficiency in two languages (1) the young civilian becomes an Assistant to the Magistrate, then a Joint Magistrate, and in seven or eight years a full Magistrate, in charge of a district. After about fifteen years of service, he becomes a Collector, and, possibly, at the end of his twentieth year, is transformed into a Civil and Session Judge. Thus men are made Judges, not because they have any qualification for the office, but because their turn has arrived for receiving the higher emoluments attached to it. During the last twenty years, in which all training for the office of Judge has been dispensed with, the necessity for such preparation has been gradually increasing, by the accumulation of Laws, and Circular Orders, and Constitutions, and Precedents, which have rendered our system of Civil Law so elaborate and complicated. As some palliation of the present arrangement, it has been asserted that it is indispensable for the Civil Judge to acquire a thorough knowledge of the intricate and diversified tenures of land, and that this practical knowledge cannot be obtained except by the experience which a Collector's office gives. It will be fully admitted that a Judge cannot be completely qualified for his office while he is ignorant of any one branch of law. The law of tenures is an important branch of knowledge; but by no means the most important. Of 90,358 suits instituted in 1840, only 22,218, or about one-fourth, had relation to land and the incidents connected with landed tenures; in which the experience of the Collector's office might be expected to tell. Nor must it be forgotten that it was not with the view of giving the future Judge this practical knowledge of landed tenures, that he has been obliged to spend six or seven years in the Collectorate. This arrangement is to be traced to the vicious system of seniority. The Judge is the head of the district, superior to the Collector both in rank and emolument, and as no man can be promoted out of his turn, the oldest Collector has the first claim to the Judge's office, and men are detained in the Collectorate, waiting for their turn, by the increasing slowness of promotion.

It is not necessary, however, that the Civil Judge should act as a Collector for five or six years, to fit him to decide any question of landed tenures. Mr. Macpherson justly observes that the law of immovable property is very complicated in England, and in other countries of Europe, but it is not thought necessary that the Judges or Barristers should be practically employed in any duties at all resembling those of an executive officer. Moreover, under the present system, the Zillah Judge may almost be said to be the least important functionary in the judicial establishment of the country. We fully agree with Mr. Macpherson in his remark, that "it is impossible not to be struck with the comparatively unimportant functions" of the Zillah Judge,—and more especially in reference to this one question of "acquaintance with the landed tenures." Of the 22,218 original suits regarding land, to which his practical knowledge of fiscal matters would be applicable, only 64 were instituted before that functionary in the year 1840, throughout the whole of Bengal or Behar, or one in Two hundred and fifty. All the other cases were brought before the Uncovenanted Judges, who have never had any training whatever in a Collector's office. But, it may be said, that the Zillah Judge hears appeals from

the Uncovenanted Courts, and is thus enabled to correct all the errors they may have made in deciding cases of landed tenures. But how stands the matter? The number of appeals disposed of by the Zillah Judges in that year, was 3370. Supposing the proportion of these appeals which relate to landed tenures, to be the same as that of the original suits, we arrive at this conclusion; that of all the cases referring to land which were brought into all the Civil Courts in the course of that year, only 926 had the benefit of that knowledge of fiscal law and landed tenures, which the Zillah Judges acquire while in the Collectorate, while 21,292 were finally disposed of by Native Judges, who have no such advantage of fiscal experience. It is therefore absurd to perpetuate an arrangement which deprives a Civil Judge of all means of acquiring a knowledge of the Civil Law, simply that he may be qualified for justly determining land suits, of which not even one in twenty comes before him. A year or two in a Collector's office would give him all the practical knowledge in this department he can require.

The system which now prevails differs materially from that which was designed when the judicial establishments were remodelled twenty years ago. Mr. Holt Mackenzie said at the time, "If it were possible, I would confine the native Judges to original suits, making all cases appealable to the European Judge" Sir Charles Metcalfe said, "I entirely concur with Mr. Blunt in thinking it necessary that the native Judges should not be independent of the control of European superintending authorities, and that therefore the power of hearing and determining appeals ought to be exercised only by European functionaries;" and Mr. Bayley observed, that "the character and popularity of the present scheme might be hazarded, by an innovation, which would suddenly elevate the native Judge to the exercise of the full extent of jurisdiction heretofore possessed by the European functionary alone." But the system has now gradually lapsed into the state which was so greatly deprecated by those who assisted in remodelling it. Of 90,000 suits instituted in a year, only about 4000 are ever brought, originally or in appeal, under the cognizance of the European covenanted Judges. Ninety-five per cent. of all cases are disposed of finally by the Native Judges, who may be venial, or ignorant, or prejudiced. The judicial functionaries in the Covenanted service are thus left in a state of complete ignorance as to the working of the Civil Courts in the interior, and there is no adequate control or supervision over the proceedings of the Native Uncovenanted Judges. The Zillah Judge, when he first takes charge of the judicial establishment of a district, has less knowledge of law than those whose decisions he is appointed to revise. If, however, he were fully qualified for this duty, he would be unequal to the task of effectually and satisfactorily supervising the law machinery of the district. He stands alone, with vast responsibilities on his shoulders, for which he has had no training, and for which he cannot find time. The consequence is that in too many instances the Shikdar becomes the most important personage in the system, and the Uncovenanted Judges who wish to stand well with the Zillah Judge, and be favourably reported to the Sudder, are obliged "to make his crooked face straight" by the usual process of propitiation.

The most obvious remedy for the serious evils of the present system, is at once to revive the office of Register, and to endow it with more authority and higher emoluments, than under the former regime. The Register must not be limited

to 700 Rs. a month. The office should be the reward of superior talents, zeal and industry. In such an establishment as that of the Civil Service, we have only to apply the spur of emulation and the hope of reward to develop first rate abilities. The Register should have served as Magistrate, and have acquired a year or two of experience in the duties of the Collectorate. This would give him all that practical knowledge of landed tenures which he can possibly require, while it would not prevent his being brought early within the judicial circle. In addition to his other duties, the supervision of the proceedings of the Native Judges should be committed to him, and he should be encouraged to remain at his post by an increase of allowances in proportion to his standing. It is a fatal error which makes it necessary for a man to leave the line of duty in which he is perfectly at home, and to enter upon another department where he must long remain in a state of pupillage, merely that he may receive the pay to which his period of service entitles him. When the office of Register has thus been restored, the Judges ought to be selected exclusively from among this class, even if it became necessary to raise the pay of Collectors, to compensate them for the loss of their prospect of Judge-ships. Our judicial establishments would then command the respect and the confidence of the community both European and Native, and we should be able to keep pace in some measure with those great judicial improvements, which the jurists on both sides the Atlantic are daily bringing to a state of greater maturity.

THE KHOOND AGENCY.—With fear and trembling, and a full appreciation of the importance of the subject, we take up our pen to lay before our readers a short sketch of what has been effected during the last season amongst the Khoonds. This is, we believe, the only public question, upon which party feeling rages with the same violence in India as in England. The last time we touched upon the topic, although our notice was "mildness itself," we were assailed by both parties, in a style that made us repent of having broken our resolution to treat the whole subject as a gigantic myth. We regret to find that some of our readers have fancied that we really intended to consider the operations of the Khoond Agency, fabulous; we beg to assure them that we adopted the expression only to represent the strength of party feeling which was concentrated upon it.

We are happy to be enabled to state that the operations of the Agency during the past season have apparently been very successful. Captain MacVicar, the officiating Agent, has made a tour through the districts of Boad, and the Meriah, or human sacrifices, appeared to him to be entirely suppressed. The only symptoms of a relapse were observed in some remote and sequestered villages of Boad, in a district bordering upon Chinna Kimey. The difficulties in this quarter arose from its proximity to a country, where the rite still prevails, and which of course influences by its example the public opinion of the villages around. The temptation to transgress the law in those particular villages, has been very great, and it was rumoured, that a sacrifice had taken place in 1840, but since that period the people have not again relapsed. Of course, the frontier villages will always be in danger; but the fact that the efforts of Government have been crowned with such complete success, in every other part of Boad, is full of encouragement. According to the latest information which has reached us, the Officiating Agent was in a dis-

trict called Majee Deese, a territory bordering upon Boad and Patum. The atrocious custom of sacrificing human beings exists in this country, but there is every probability that the vigorous efforts which the Government is now making, will result in its speedy and final extinction. At present, every thing promises well; the chief of the district is favourable, and the people have a salutary dread of incurring the displeasure of the British Government. The number of the victims rescued in this part of the country, has, however, been small, owing to the peculiar customs of the district. In Boad and Goomsoor, the people rear their intended victims for adoption and concubinage, and subsequently immolate them. It is, therefore, comparatively easy to rescue them in the intermediate period. In Majee Deese, on the other hand, the victims are purchased when required, and immolated at once. Three victims have, however, been rescued, and more are expected. Captain Frye, the officiating Assistant, is at present in Chinna Kineedy, and has received some victims. It is said to be his opinion that the efforts of Government have finally suppressed the atrocious custom throughout the whole of the low country.

An attempt has also been made on the part of Government to carry this good work still further, and to sow the seeds of future permanent improvement. After great opposition, the officers engaged in suppressing the sacrifices, have succeeded in establishing three schools in Upper Goomsoor, and they have now Twenty-seven children under instruction. This is a small number, but the people are fast losing their aversion to education, and it is highly encouraging fact that the teacher was himself rescued from immolation, and educated at the Mission School at Berhampore.

**THE ASSAM TEA COMPANY.**—The annual Meeting of the Proprietors of this Company was held on the 17th instant, and we are happy to perceive from the published report, that the progress of recovery from the effects of former mismanagement continues without interruption. The net produce of the past year, was stated at 2,16,000 lbs. of Tea, a quantity scarcely more than the two hundredth part of the tea consumed in England in 1848. Of this quantity, 1,57,948 lbs. had been sold at the date of the last advice, and had realized the "unprecedented" average price of 1s. 11½d. per pound. If the remainder of the stock goes off at a somewhat lower rate, so as to realize a general average of 1s. 9½d. per pound, the net proceeds will be little short of £19,500. The exact amount obtained for the Company's tea in the three past years, will be given from the following table.

Net produce lbs.	Proceeds
1847, 144,164, @ per lb. 1s. 7-4	£11,213 2 0½
1848, 182,835, " 1s. 9	£15,458 13 2½
1849, 216,000, " 1s. 9½	£20,420 0 0

This exhibits a rise in the aggregate value of the Company's produce to the extent of 68 per cent. in two years, and this has been effected, according to the report, without any sensible increase of the current expenditure. It exhibits also a rise of two pence farthing per pound in the value of the tea, a fact strongly indicative of its increasing excellence. The details of the crop of the past season, which have been already received, shew a net produce of 2,87,000 lbs. of tea, so that the Company are increasing their cultivation to the extent of nearly ten per cent. per annum, and the increase will doubtless proceed with greater rapidity, whenever the entrance of capital enables the Directors to extend their operations, which have been and by hampered by the want of their resources

under the old Direction. Indeed, the progress they have already made, is a most convincing evidence of the profitable nature of the cultivation, as the amount of capital remaining at the disposal of the reformed Direction cannot have been much above three lakhs, out of the fifteen originally subscribed. The improvement is attributable, we believe, not only to the honesty and energy of the new Directors, but to the great abilities, and untiring zeal of their chief Agent, and Superintendent Mr. Morney, who, after bringing the Assam portion of the concern into something like working order, was unhappily attacked by a remitting fever, from which he has only just recovered.

The Directors have resolved to make an effort to obtain a market for their teas in India, and have accordingly had their tea packed in small boxes of five and ten pounds each, which have sold well, and which will, they hope, ultimately prove an important source of revenue. As we are not shareholders, and have no connection with the Company beyond this annual allusion to its proceedings, we may be allowed to give their tea our commendation without being suspected of base motives. We beg therefore to state, that we consider their tea, if not superior, at least fully equal to the Chinese leaf. We imagine that even the Directors are by no means aware of the extent to which the consumption of tea has begun to spread among the natives. We recently made some enquiries on the subject, and found that tea was an article of ordinary consumption in almost every wealthy native house in this town, and that it was drunk, as in China, without milk or sugar. If the Company can afford to dispose of the article at a price within the reach of the Native community, we do not despair of seeing it as popular in Bengal as among the middling classes in Great Britain.

We cannot close this article without a reference to the unwearied zeal and assiduity of its Secretary, Mr. H. Morney, to whose services the Company is in a great measure indebted for its present position. We are happy to see that the members of the Direction both at home and in India, have shewn a due appreciation of his services, by raising his salary to Rs. 450 a month, with a prospect of a further increase, when the financial condition of the Company will admit of it. Our readers must not forget that the Assam is the only Company, we believe, in Bengal, which has retrieved itself, after having been conducted to the verge of bankruptcy by Ditch Jobbery.

**THE MURDER AT THE ICE HOUSE.**—We had written an article upon this horrible affair, expressing our general adherence to the petition drawn up by the Editor of the *Observer* on behalf of Verry, and republished below. We find, however, that another petition drawn up by Dr. Boaz, and signed by six hundred persons, has already been presented to the Judges, and it is evident from their reply, that the law will be allowed to take its course. That petition differed from the one we republished, inasmuch as it was based upon the general question of the propriety of the punishment of death, but the Judges have doubtless given a mature deliberation, also, to the particulars of the evidence produced, and have come to that decision which is most in accordance with the dictates of their own consciences. The reply is as follows: "We think that the reasons assigned would not justify us in commutating the punishment; therefore, notwithstanding the number and respectability of the signatures to the memorial, the law must take its course." The reply is signed by all the Judges, and the question must be

regarded as finally settled. We nevertheless publish the *Citizen's* petition.

"We the undersigned, respectfully crave a respite of the extreme sentence of the law in the murder of Francis Silvester Verry, on the following considerations:

**First.**—The convict's extreme youth, which falling any evidence of ferocious crime, renders it highly probable, that he was, in the instance of this crime, the tool of others.

**Second.**—That the murder of which he has been convicted, though a cruel one, was not, according to the general tenor of the evidence, a premeditated murder.

**Third.**—That the confession made by the convict is in its details wholly incredible, and cannot therefore be safely relied upon, as more than a admission, that he was one of the gang by whom the murder was committed. It therefore remains doubtful how far he was concerned in the actual perpetration of the murder, and it is not even probable that he may not have actively participated in it.

**Fourth.**—That there is direct evidence that persons much older than the convict planned the expedition which terminated in the murder; that he appeared then to be acting under their directions; and that great difference was the cause in further view by the fact of his being so young, that he was the only witness who had not led to his conviction.

**Fifth.**—That the very fact of that confession, with reference to the motives, has prompted it, shew that the convict is not utterly depraved.

**Sixth.**—Example, not revenge, being the true object of judicial punishment, the death of the convict would in the present instance fall in its salutary effect, as the most powerful impression which it would create, must be one of the imperfection of human justice, when the minor criminal is punished, while those without a manner of moral doubt more guilty escape.

**Seventh.**—That the nature of the *Observer's* petition of "a full and fair trial," was in a manner anticipated by the conviction of the convict, by which he was shown that he would have escaped."

**STATE OF RELIGION AND EDUCATION IN INDIA.**—We have been favored with a Prospectus of this work, which Sir William Burton, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court at Madras, and now on a visit to this Presidency, has proposed to publish. It is in anticipation of the discussion which may be expected at the termination of the Charter, and of the arrangements which may then be deemed necessary, that he is thus desirous of collecting into one point of view whatever notices may most clearly represent the present state of Religion and Education in India. The work will be divided into Eight Chapters, and embrace the following subjects:

**CHAPTER 1.**—Religious state of India previous to and at the time of its acquisition by the British.

**CHAPTER 2.**—Proceedings of the Government respecting Religion and Education from the time of acquisition by the British to the present time.

**CHAPTER 3.**—The proceedings of Religious Societies and individuals during the same period.

**CHAPTER 4, 5, & 6.**—Present state of Religion and Education in Bengal, Madras, and Bombay.

**CHAPTER 7.**—Summary of the state of Religion and Education.

**CHAPTER 8.**—Practical suggestions as to what may and ought to be now done, for the good of our fellow men, for the honor of Empire, and to the glory of God, by the Government and by the individual.

Such a work at such a period cannot fail to be highly valuable. It will put our legislators in possession of information which they could not otherwise obtain, and afford the most important assistance to the labors which will then devolve upon them. It is, however, to be feared that the great range of subjects which it embraces, in reference to the past, the present, and the future, will swell it to an unwieldy bulk, and prevent its being extensively read. At the period we have alluded to, should Parliament be enabled to go into the whole question of the Indian administration, and to examine the state and the result of our numerous and varied institutions, its members will have little time to give to a large octavo volume, on one single department of public duty.

For such an occasion as that of the Parliamentary discussions, it appears in our humble

judgment preferable to limit the range of subjects, and, to compress all the information and all the suggestions which may be given, into an octavo pamphlet not exceeding 250 pages. The first Chapter in the proposed work, relates to information which is already before the public, and it will be altogether needless to repeat it. I cannot, if I do write, another and an expanded edition of the pamphlet, with fuller details, might be subsequently published, as a permanent work of reference, in which case that Chapter regarding "the religious state of India previous to, and at the time of its acquisition by the British," might form a very suitable introduction. We hope, however, that whatever plan may be adopted, those who are in possession of the information which Sir William Bentinck is so anxious to collect, will not fail to communicate it freely, and without delay. There is a spirit of oriental prostitution in this country, which imprecipitously overmarches our Anglo-Saxon energy and it becomes a duty to guard against it. The data which the author is anxious to possess, will be rendered doubly valuable by being communicated at the earliest period, whereas, if it be delayed beyond a reasonable time, it will necessarily prove utterly valueless.

**THE CALCUTTA REVIEW AND LORD WILLIAM BENTINCK.**—As we intend to give a separate notice of one or two of the articles published in the last number of the *Calcutta Review*, we have omitted our usual summary of its contents, and shall confine ourselves, for the present, to a portion of the first article, which relates to that obnoxious measure, Lord William Bentinck's Indian administration, which has always been so unfairly misrepresented. The title of the work under review is "*Sketches of Naval and Military Adventure, by one of the Service*;" and the writer has introduced into his narrative the following story:—

"You remember the sensation produced by His Lordship's introduction of the half-batta measure. He was almost most awfully fit, and held up in every possible way to ignominy and contempt. Among other effusions of the day, a song was composed about this concern, in which His Lordship, of course, figured prominently, and was capably lampooned. This song Lord Bentinck saw. Shortly after its publication, the Governor-General happened to pass through the station, in which the officer, who had the credit of its authorship, was quartered. There His Lordship remained a day or two, and, the evening before leaving it, invited the officers of the different regiments to an entertainment. The Poet was of course asked, and of course attended. Puffer being over, His Lordship called upon an officer near him for a song. This was given, and another was then called on, and so it went round till it came to the turn of the author of the lyric on the half-batta question. He tried hard to excuse himself, when asked to sing; but the Governor-General would take no excuse. 'Hear Mr. ——— and His Lordship at least oblige us with one of your own songs.' 'My Lord! 'We shall be happy to hear you of our own compositions. Come now, what say you to the song on the half-batta question?' 'Poor ———! I shall never forget the consternation he evinced at that last question, or the almost suffocating attempts made to suppress the lyric, which his awkward stammer excited on all sides. However, he could not help himself, and so he sang, and really it was capital fun to see the good humour with which His Lordship bore each successive hit, while the poor vocalist presented his life as on under the hallicution, and seemed to tremble. And His Lordship did not get at the lavender which was his charge, most inadvertently, to belabour him. The song at last ended, Lord Bentinck burst into a hearty laugh, in which the poet, company joined, and the whole house seemed to shake with our united merriment."

"We have the most implicit confidence in the genuineness of this story, although the Reviewer appears to doubt its authenticity. Many others are still current in society, among which we may notice the following. Lord William, having arrived at a Military station, invited the officers of the ——— Regiment of Cavalry to dine with him. They were invited by the Half-batta measure, and refused the invitation. Lord

William, who had acted in this matter under orders from home, felt it necessary to vindicate his public authority, and intimated to the officers that he must consider their continued refusal as a contempt of his orders as the head of the Government. They were of course obliged to submit, but resolved that they would not open their lips either to speak or to eat. For some time after they were seated, they maintained this sullen silence, but the Governor General exhibited his usual imperturbability, and gradually drew them out into conversation; which soon became cheerful and animated. The officers were not long in forgetting their resolution; Lord William exerted his great conversational powers with much success, and Lady William's native grace and affability gave fresh interest to the scene; and the evening passed with a degree of good humour and cordiality, which the officers said they never should forget."

At the end of Twenty years, Lord William Bentinck's name is held in detestation by no small portion of the Army, partly for his reductions, which were the dictate of necessity, and the result of orders from England, but chiefly for the Half-batta order, for the enforcement of which the Court of Directors have twice perilled the confidence, if not the allegiance, of their officers. On such occasions, the supreme command in India was in the hands of men of the most inflexible resolution. Clive was assailed as bitterly as Lord William Bentinck for carrying the orders of the Court for the curtailment of the Batta into effect; but a succeeding age, having had access to his own private papers, and being thus able to read his mind, has restored the lustre of his character; and whenever we have a Memoir of Lord William Bentinck, with his private correspondence at this difficult and delicate period, all these heats and animosities will be forgotten in the general admiration of his excellencies.

Precisely the same degree of irritation was manifested by the members of the Civil Service, when Lord William Bentinck felt himself compelled by orders from home, and by his own conviction of the necessity of the measure, to reduce the vast allowances of that Service. Although the agitation did not in this instance approach the point of mutiny, every insult that could be devised was heaped upon the unmoved head of the unfortunate Governor General. As an illustration of the general feeling, we give an anecdote, for the truth of which, as far as regards the leading facts, we can vouch, although it may possibly appear as incredible to the Reviewer as the one above quoted. Soon after the publication of the order diminishing the Civilian salaries, Lord William Bentinck was travelling in the North West, and dined at the house of a certain Collector. This gentleman had been exceedingly irritated with the Governor General for "cutting" him, and by way of revenge placed a dinner on the table, which would have better suited the pocket of some retired Sergeant Major. He had collected from various quarters a variety of pester dishes, and spoons, and not a vestige of plate was to be seen. Lord William Bentinck looked about him, ate his dinner, took a glass of exuberant bad wine, and finally asked his entertainer if he were in debt. Mr. ——— denied the imputation, but declared that his Lordship's economical reforms, though doubtless well considered, and intended for the benefit of the services, had deprived him of the power of keeping up that degree of decorous state which would best redound to the credit of the government. Lord William Bentinck, who had been warned of the trick which was to

be played on him, asked him to be so kind as to open a cupboard on his right hand, where the plate was shining in all its brightness, and looking as if it had been in very recent use. "Mr. ———, said his Lordship, you appear to have forgotten, that it is the Governor General, and not Lord William Bentinck, who now dines with you, and you will oblige him for the future with a better dinner." — But why should we not also mention that Mr. H. ———, a civilian of the highest standing in the service, on being asked whether he was not in some degree related to Lady William Bentinck, replied, "No; but unfortunately to the least himself."

**MILITARY RETIRING FUSION.**—A highly valued correspondent has requested us to call the attention of our military readers to the following proposal, which has been made by an officer, who assumes the name of "Young Promotion." We shall be happy to receive any communications which may assist in the full discussion of the plan:

"At a time, when it is the fashion to decry the army as irretrievably and universally immersed in debt and when even those who have access to the best information receive the fallacious report with too much reliance, it is consolatory to find an officer endeavouring to withdraw his brother officers from anxious speculations, and doubtful expenses, into the legitimate endeavour of repairing their circumstances, if they be bad, by accelerating their promotion. Such a one is, 'Young Promotion,' who has devised a scheme, based on the soundest principles, and bearing every indication of justice to all parties concerned. Before, however, entering on the scheme itself, it may not be out of place to deny the truth of the assertion that the army is extensively in debt. I venture to assert, that if the assets and liabilities of the army as a body, were balanced, it would be found that the former greatly preponderate; and, moreover, it is a fact, notorious to every ordinary observer, that debt is by no means so general as asserted, and, where it exists, is in such small sums that by a little economy, its absorption would be practicable in a very short time. The cause of debt is the facility with which it is contracted. Limit the facility, and you destroy the cause. Tradesmen should insist on cash payments, and not complain when charging exorbitantly, if they find an inability to meet their demands. Courts of Request are Courts of Equity; if the predefining officer is to be marked for his presence there, is the claimant, when non-suited, to pass unheeded? But I must return to 'Young Promotion,' who richly deserves the thanks of his comrades for his zealous and indefatigable exertions, to benefit them."

The peculiarity of his scheme consists in making the seniors of each grade bear the expense of each purchase; which is in reality, only a nominal difference, as each officer in his turn becomes a senior. The object is to purchase out, Colonels or Lieutenant Colonels, or to induce them to retire, in the former case, fixing the bonus at an unalterable rate, viz. Rs. 20,000 and, in the latter, at about half that sum. It is scarcely necessary to do more than state that the benefits arising from increased promotion consequent on the establishment of a *bona fide*, are an immediate increase of rank, pay, and allowances; a more rapid accession to Regimental, Brigade, and Divisional Commands, and Regimental appointments; a greater chance of honorary distinction; the 10th; higher pensions if disposed to retire, with a bonus on retirement. These are not trifles, and may well claim the serious attention of every officer from the Ensign to the Colonel. The scheme is as follows: Each Senior Major, Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign, of the 78 Regiments (reckoning the European Regts. at 20 my respective rank, 120 or at 28, 78 or at 240 or 250; those immediately benefiting by the step paying the higher, and those the least benefiting the lesser; all others, the intermediate sums in a graduated scale; the lowest as 5, 10, 20 and so on, up to the 78th, adding the smallest subscription, each step to the previous one, as 5, 10, 15, 20.



























# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDUSTAN," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Rangoon, and the Intermediate Ports, (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore, &c.) intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel Hindustan, will be closed at this Office, on the 15th proximo, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Saturday, the 16th inst., with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Rangoon, in time to reach the Steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Hindustan can be received after 5 P. M. of that date.

J. B. BURLIN BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, 21st January, 1851.

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Per Mrs. J. J. J.

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OVERLAND SUMMARY.—The Mail of the 24th December arrived in Calcutta, on Saturday, the 1st instant, after a passage of Thirty-nine days, and the intelligence, though not particularly novel, is of the deepest interest. The paper question is still the great subject of popular attention, but all active measures are suspended until the meeting of Parliament, in the beginning of February. Meanwhile, all classes of the community are expressing their views upon the question, and we are happy to perceive that the more moderate portion of the English Roman Catholics are unanimous in condemning the papal encroachment. Lord Beaumont, a Roman Catholic Peer, has declared, that he considers the papal Bull totally inconsistent with the allegiance due from British subjects to their Sovereign, and the premier Catholic Noble, the Duke of Norfolk, has expressed his perfect accordance with this sentiment. The Earl of Shrewsbury, on the other hand, who believes in the doll of Rimini, supports Cardinal Wiseman; but it appears that the great body of the English Roman Catholic laity are decidedly opposed both to his pretensions and his person. Sir Edward Sugden, one of the first legal authorities in England, has declared that the recent appointment of Roman Catholic Bishops is a direct violation of the law. The Act passed by the first Parliament of Elizabeth's reign distinctly declared that no foreign prince or potentate had any authority, temporal, spiritual, or ecclesiastical in the realm of England. By Acts 9 and 10, of Victoria, certain provisions of this statute, particularly those relating to the penalties, were repealed, but those Acts nevertheless provide that "it shall not be lawful for any person to affirm or maintain that any foreign prince, prince, prelate, or potentate, hath, or ought to have, jurisdiction, spiritual or ecclesiastical within the realm." The Parliament will therefore, on its assembling, be called on simply to revive the

operation of this Act, and attach to it a suitable penalty. Addresses have poured in from all parts of the kingdom to the Queen, and her Majesty has replied to the more important of them in person. The replies are in general mere reiterations of the assurance that something will be done, but they do not offer the smallest indication of the ultimate course which the Ministry will adopt. The strong demonstration of national feeling against the Puseyites is already producing its effect. The Bishops of Exeter and Oxford have been compelled to assent to the Tractarians, whose pretensions they have so long upheld, and the Bishop of London, the "wax-candle Bishop," as he is called, has commenced a strict investigation into the Romaniising practices of several churches within his diocese. The Rev. Mr. Fyfe, curate of St. Barnabas, with his two brother curates, the Rev. G. F. De Gex, and the Rev. F. A. G. Ouseley of St. Paul's, have resigned their cures, and their immediate superior, Mr. Bennet, has also resigned his living. It is not said whether these gentlemen intend to go over to Rome, or not, but it is not improbable that they will endeavour to found a denomination of their own. The number of converts or perverts is daily increasing. Lord Camden with his lady, Mr. Monell, M. P., Mr. Henn, nephew of the Irish barriester of that name, the Rev. J. Butler, late of Brasenose College, Oxford, and Mr. Bastard, a wealthy proprietor in Devonshire, have formally joined the Roman Catholic Church. As yet no member of the middling class not educated at Oxford, has seceded, but many more of the upper classes of society and of the clergy appear ready to "go out." A rumour has reached us from England, through a private letter from a gentleman usually well informed, that Lord John Russell intends to resign his post, and will be succeeded by Lord Clarendon. We doubt, however, whether Lord John Russell is likely "to blench from the helm when the wind blows highest," and also, whether Lord Clarendon will be accepted as the Prime Minister of England. The remainder of the Home Intelligence may be summed up in a very few words. The "Crystal Palace" as the public have determined to call the Exhibition of 1851, is nearly ready for the Commissioners; the glazing is almost completed, and the Commissioners have already commenced discussing the best system of classification. It has been determined that the principle adopted shall be that of classifying by nations, as a systematic division of the different productions, according to the nature of the articles themselves, will be impossible in the limited time which remains. The important Law Reforms recently introduced into the American States have excited great attention in England, and have apparently given a fresh impulse to the Law Reform movement. As a great step in the right direction, a Royal Commission has been issued to investigate into the practice and pleading of the Court of Chancery, and the following gentlemen have been appointed Commissioners. The Attorney General, G. F. Turner, Q. C., E. Bethell, Q. C., James Parker, Q. C., W. F. Wood, Q. C., Mr. C. Compton, and Mr. W. M. James. Mr. Charles C. Barber, is to be Secretary to the Commission. Another inquiry is also to be instituted into the whole question of the Law of Divorce, and the members will

be chosen from the most distinguished members in both houses, assisted by Dr. Lushington.

Nothing of interest has transpired in France, except an enormous banquet given by the President to commemorate the second anniversary of his own election. The banquet was attended by Six thousand persons, at the least, and the speech of the President treated of the necessity of order, and the importance of the people's suffrage. The electoral law of the 31st May, 1850, has not limited the suffrage to the degree that was at first expected. There are still seven millions of voters, and the number will be further increased in the present year. A motion for the better observance of the Sabbath was brought forward in the Assembly by M. Montalembert, but the object was so evidently to increase the power of the priesthood, and its design was so opposed to all French feelings, that it was rejected with scorn. The electric Telegraphs have been thrown open to the public, but no towns are to enjoy the privilege except those which have already been placed in communication with Paris. The treaty of Olmutz between Austria and Prussia proves to be a real pacification, and both those powers are reducing their armaments, and naming the representatives they intend to depute to the Free Conference at Dresden. The lesser powers, however, are irritated to the last degree at the coalition, and although the majority have consented to send delegates to this Conference, they are forming internal leagues for their own protection. Hesse is to be abandoned to its Elector, and Austrian troops have already begun to occupy the province. The Court of Copenhagen, also, are hostile to the treaty of Olmutz, as they apprehend that the union of Austria and Prussia indicates a determination on the part of both powers, to detach the provinces of Schleswig-Holstein from the Danish Crown. General Willisen, the General in Chief of the Dutchies, has been compelled to resign, and the Statthouderschap have appointed Major General Baron Von der Horst in his stead.

The intelligence from the other side of the Atlantic, is almost all comprised in the message of the President. Mr. Fillmore's message is a quiet, business like document, and although progressive in its character, does not exhibit any great compass of mental power, or much practical acquaintance with public affairs. The President says that a treaty has been concluded between the United States and Great Britain, for the construction of a ship Canal through Nicaragua, to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific. He believes that protection will be advantageous to the manufacturing classes of the Union, but his ideas on that subject are not worth discussion, as there is not the remotest chance of their being adopted by the Legislature. A uniform postage of three cents, or one anna, is recommended for all prepaid letters, throughout the Union, and a further reduction on the rates at which newspapers are carried. Some other reforms are also alluded to, and on the whole, the message shews well by the side of the royal manifestoes and proclamations of the warlike states of continental Europe.

PROGRESS OF THE RAIL.—We promised to report the progress of our Rail whenever there was any thing to report. It is therefore with feelings

of the most unfeigned satisfaction that we now announce—that the first inch of the ground was made over to the Railway establishment on Saturday, the 25th of January, in the year of Grace, 1851. This forms a new era in the history of this Presidency. The date is a matter of importance.

The Railway Company were put in possession of the first plot of ground *One year Two months, and Eleven days* after the despatch of the letter from the Court of Directors, in which they twice enforced the necessity of accelerating this preliminary measure. In the 10th Clause of that letter, they stated, "We request that no time may be lost in taking whatever steps may be necessary for putting the Railway Companies respectively in possession of the first portion of the land which will be required for their immediate commencement, and that special care may be taken that the whole of the land may be furnished as quickly as it shall be required." The Court anticipated that the Government of India would require a more than ordinary impulse to creation and speed; and they therefore wound up their letter, in these terms:—"We will conclude by repeating our previous injunction that no time should be lost in taking the steps necessary to place the land required for these undertakings at the disposal of the respective Companies, in order that they may commence their operations at the soonest possible time." The anticipations of the Honorable Court have been verified to a degree which reflects the highest possible credit upon their foresight. We have no doubt that the Secretary of the Board of Control will assure Parliament that no time has been 'lost'; possibly not, according to the Indian estimate of the value of time. Still, it is our duty to place on record the fact,—simply as an illustration of what is called "speed" in India,—that Four Hundred and Thirty-seven days elapsed between the issue of that injunction, and compliance with it.

**BENJAMIN MARINER'S WIDOW'S FUND.**—The annual meeting of this ill-managed Institution was held at the Secretary's office on the 30th ultimo, when no fewer than Eleven gentlemen were present.

The Report of the meeting in the *Citizen* states that the Rev. T. Smith submitted a Report which he had been requested to draw up at the last annual meeting, proposing to enlarge the pensions, but one difficulty appeared to him, that the deed itself would not admit of any encroachment on the Capital. Upon this, Mr. J. W. Roberts, a Director of the Fund, said, he considered that the deed was a very old one, and that those who had signed it, and their widows, were dead long ago. He did not see any reason why the deed should not be altered, if being mere waste paper; and he thought the Report submitted by Mr. Smith a very good one. He then thought it would be advisable that the Fund should be thrown open to the public at large, and upon an entirely new scale, much reduced. The Chairman then remarked that legal advice should be taken before the old deed was set aside, and the Capital encroached upon, this being the safest method the fund could adopt. Of the Resolutions which were subsequently adopted, the second and third ran thus: That it being the general opinion of those present, that the Original Deed of the Society is radically defective and almost virtually inoperative, requiring thorough revision, it was resolved to ascertain, by reference to Counsel, how far this measure can safely and legally be now undertaken with a view to the general benefit of all concerned.—That, accordingly, a Committee be ap-

pointed, consisting of Captain Beckett, Mr. Gardiner, and Mr. M. Johnston, for the purpose of drawing up a case to be submitted for the opinion of the Advocate General, after the same shall have been previously approved of by the Directors.

Accustomed as we have been to the most singular exhibitions of morality, of late, we must confess that we were not prepared for so bold and startling a proposal. The deed which it is now proposed to treat as waste paper, had been previously set aside, in one case, with little scruple. It provides that the Society shall consist of *an unlimited number of subscribers*; but the Directors have long since taken it upon themselves to abrogate this fundamental law, and have closed it against the public. One of them, however, stated at the meeting that "it would be advisable that the Fund should be thrown open to the public." As if this violation of the constitution of the Society was not sufficient, the Director publicly affirmed, that the deed itself, to which he owes his place in the Direction, is a mere piece of waste paper, although it is expressly provided that no subscribers present at any meeting shall "at liberty to do anything which shall militate against or tend to annul any of the articles herebefore, or hereinafter agreed on." If the deed be no longer binding, under what authority were the Directors elected, or was the meeting held? Another fundamental rule of the Society, is that "the principal of the said fund shall not on any consideration, be infringed, or broken in upon;" and that the pensions of the widows and children shall be paid exclusively from the interest. Yet it is now proposed by one of the Directors that an encroachment shall be made on this fund, and three gentlemen have been appointed to draw up a case for the Advocate General, with the undesignated object of ascertaining, whether the fund can be broken up "with a view to the general benefit of all concerned." We cannot, of course, presume to conjecture what may be the opinion of the Advocate General; but to our lay understanding, so palpable a violation of the fundamental principle of the Society, would appear to approach the limits of the Act for punishing breaches of trust. The Directors of the Fund seem, moreover, to have forgotten, that upon the strength of the Deed which was declared at the meeting to be "mere waste paper," they have received from the Government of India more than a lakh and a half of Rupees, and that, at this present moment, they are receiving a donation of Five Hundred Rupees a month, from the Court of Directors, for the fund, with the clear understanding that it is still open to an unlimited number of subscribers, and that the capital is "on no consideration to be infringed, or broken in upon." This open avowal of a design to break in upon the fund, renders it indispensible necessary that no time should be lost in bringing the matter under the notice of the Court.

We do not see what necessity there was for any reference to the Advocate General. Instead of going to the legal adviser of Government, to ask the exercise of his legal ingenuity, to ascertain whether the capital which they hold under the solemn pledge of its being considered inviolable, may not be broken up with impunity, the Directors would have acted more judiciously and honestly if they had at once applied to the Supreme Court for the registration of the Company, according to the Act recently passed. None of those inconveniences which it is feared by some, the act of registration may entail on trading Companies, will be experienced

in the case of this Society. The registration of the Company will place it under the scrutiny and the safeguard of the Supreme Court. The Court is authorized, on the petition of any shareholder, to enforce the performance by the Directors of any of their duties under the deed of copartnership, which it may appear just to enforce in a summary manner. As soon as the registration is completed, it will be for the Court to decide, whether, among the duties which it may enforce on the part of the Directors, that of preserving the Capital intact is to be considered one. The Directors may rest assured that if they neglect to take the necessary measures, at the earliest period, for obtaining registration, they will create such mistrust of their intentions and proceedings, as necessarily to forfeit the confidence of the Court of Directors, and, with it, the donation which they at present receive.

The course which the Directors ought to pursue, is plain. In the First place, it is their bounden duty to give the public a Report, drawn up on a plan similar to that of the Unconventanated Pension Fund, one of the most ably managed institutions in India. This Report of that fund is always full and satisfactory; it carries an appearance of openness and honesty on the face of it. It occupies sixteen pages. The only Report which the Directors of the Mariner's Fund will condescend to give, is a meagre abstract of sixteen lines, from which nothing of any value or importance can be gleaned. Their Report should give, as in the case of the Unconventanated Fund, the names of all the incumbents, widows, children, and orphans, and the date on which they came on the strength of the Fund; as well as the names of all the subscribers borne on the books, with the date of their joining the Society. The publication of these lists, which have been invariably refused, would lead to the discovery of information which is not now within the reach of the Secretary, or the Society. Secondly, the Directors should use the power the deed gives them of immediately revising the rates of premium and pension, availing themselves of the experience which has been obtained from the working of the Unconventanated Pension Fund, and immediately open the door to the community. This would bring back the public to the Society, and infuse some fresh and healthy blood into its veins. It would give new constitution, and a new Directory; and we should not then see the same men, elected, year after year, though the Deed states that at the retirement of the Directors by rotation, an election of two other Directors shall take place. Lastly, it is not so much advisable, as indispensable, that the Directors should apply for immediate registration, and thus give the Society that safeguard against the misappropriation of funds, and that guarantee for the honest and efficient working of the machinery, which it is the intention of the Act to provide. When these steps have been taken, and the Society becomes again a public institution, it will be time to attend to the tinkering of its constitution. But if, without giving the public any report of its proceedings, its members, or its claimants; without allowing the public at large to join it, in compliance with one of its fundamental rules, and without applying for registration, the Directors attempt to break up the fund, and thus ensure the gradual extinction of the Society, they will incur—no do not mention Norfolk Island, for some clever lawyer will doubtless be able to save them from it,—but the odium of having destroyed the hopes of the widows and orphans of those who are now so anxious to join it, and of having exhibited an untold example of Dishonesty.

We have only one more remark to offer. The meagre report in the papers gives us the unexampled fact, that of 103 widows who are incumbees, and all of whom must be able to bury, not one died during the twelve months of 1850 ! There is no other instance on record of such vitality, since the days of Methusalem.

#### POST OFFICE REFORM COMMISSIONERS.—

The Bombay Post Office Commissioner, Mr Courtney, has arrived in Calcutta by the Steamer, and the three Commissioners having now commenced their sitting, we may naturally expect that their joint Report, embodying the result of their enquiries, and the improvements which they have suggested, will be sent without any loss of time to the Government of India, and forwarded to the Governor General. The consultations, and the preparation of the Report, may occupy a month, or it may be extended to two months, should any further references be requisite, but this period is manifestly the only time left for any representations which may be deemed advisable for any one to present to the Committee. From the anxiety which our own Commissioner, and we believe, also, each of the other Commissioners, has manifested to ascertain what modification of the present system will be most conducive to the general interests of society, or to the particular interests of its different classes, we feel confident that any statements which may be sent in, will receive the most favorable consideration; and we therefore take the earliest opportunity of addressing ourselves to our brother editors, on a matter in which we all have a community of interest. It will be well in their recollection that the Editor of the *Delhi Gazette*, in his impression of the 14th of August last, stated that he did not anticipate any great increase of circulation from a reduction of postage. Now the bare probability that this assertion may carry weight with the Post Office Committee, suggests the necessity of immediate exertion by those who entertain a different opinion. We know that the editors of all the Calcutta journals have been looking forward with feelings of hope for the reduction of the postage on all journals, throughout India, to a uniform rate of One anna, as the great boon which the present Postal enquiry was to confer on Indian journalism, and we deem it right to warn them of the possibility of any interference with the accomplishment of these wishes. At such a crisis as the present, we are inclined to think that a renewed expression of their opinions and wishes, regarding a reduction of the rates of newspaper postage, would produce a salutary effect. For our part, tho' editing only a weekly journal, which is less affected than others by the question of postage, we desire earnestly to plead for a reduction of the postage to One anna, throughout India, with the firm conviction, created by the experience of more than fifteen years, that the present rates seriously interfere with the circulation of journals at this Presidency, and that a reduction would prove highly beneficial to their interests.

But there are higher considerations involved in this question than the mere interests of newspaper proprietors, although they also have a right to their full share of any benefit which it may be intended to confer on society in general. The regulation of postage by the distance, has an inevitable tendency to confine the epistolary intercourse of society in every country to certain geographical limits. It isolates each section of the community within the circle of the low and manageable rates of postage, and prevents that expanded communication, between the widely

separated divisions of society, which it is so desirable to create. The establishment of a uniform postage breaks up those lines of demarcation, and unites all parts of the country together in one great circle of intercourse, and may, on this ground, be considered one of the most magnificent improvements of the present age. The present post office enquiries have shown that the intercourse of society in India, more especially among the natives, is thus circumscribed within very narrow limits, and that the people of one division have little knowledge of the other divisions, to which letters cannot be sent except at a high rate of postage. The blessing which it said the Commissioners are desirous of bestowing on the country of a low and uniform rate of postage, will bring the various communities together, and make their wants and feelings known to each other. The effect of a high and graduated scale of newspaper postage, has a tendency to produce the same disastrous result. It breaks up India into separate divisions, between each of which there is little communion. Each division has its own journals, and the circulation is limited in a great measure to a given circle. The natural tendency of such a system, is to produce narrowness of views, and an almost exclusive attention to local interests. In proportion as the circulation of a journal is confined to a limited section of society, it falls imperceptibly into the habit of representing only the local sympathies and antipathies of that section, and becomes embittered by all the animosities which arise within it. The most effectual mode of raising the character of the press in India and improving its utility, is to afford facilities for the most extensive interchange of communication, and to give the journalist who may be desirous of adopting broader views, and more extensively advocating the general interests of society, the means of access to the public beyond the limits of his own circle. Even the circulation of the *London Times* would be affected in no small degree, if the stamp were doubled or trebled according to distance.

**THE MILITARY FUND MEETING.**—The annual meeting of the Military Fund, to which so much interest and importance has been attached by recent events, came off in Calcutta on Wednesday last, and resulted in the election of Twelve Directors by the sixty members who were present. The usual monotony of such meetings was broken by a great variety of discussions, carried on with much earnestness, and more or less of acerbity of feeling. The cause of this animation will be at once understood when it is known that Col. Saxe was one of the chief speakers. The most important of the propositions made on this occasion, was one which would have totally subverted its present constitution. It was proposed to break up the existing Direction, and throw the management of the Fund at once into the hands of Government, with an officer, appointed by Government, on 1000 Rs. a month, to work it. We are happy to find that the proposal met with little encouragement. In our humble judgment, such a measure would have inflicted a deep and very unmerited stigma on the army. For what more severe reflection could have been cast upon its Officers than thus to have practically affirmed, that while they were fully competent to manage all the complicated details of those departments of public duty which are entrusted to them by the state, there did not exist sufficient public spirit, or energy among them, for the safe and efficient management of a fund which in-

volved the dearest interests of the widows and orphans of their deceased comrades? It would have implied a consciousness of inferiority to the members of the Civil Service, who conduct the affairs of their own two funds with such zeal and fidelity, without any assistance from Government, if the Military branch of the service had gone up to Government and stated the absolute necessity of such interference. The circumstances which have given rise to the feeling of despair in which this proposal originates, are simply the loss of about 4000 Rs. by the robbery of a Native Sirkar, and 24,000 Rs. by the failure of a House of business in London. But nothing was wanting to prevent these losses but the most ordinary vigilance and supervision. For the honor of the Bengal army we deprecate any proceeding, which should imply an avowal that these simple qualifications are not to be found in the Military officers in and around the Presidency; and that the salvation of the Fund depends upon its being placed under the guarantee of Government. The machinery of the Fund is by no means complicated. Its receipts are obtained by orders on the Treasury; its payments are made by cheques on the Bank. Its rules are definite and simple; and a good Secretary—who understands, of course, book-keeping by double entry,—and two or three Directors, with their eyes about them, could manage all its affairs with the most perfect ease. This feeling of dependence on Government for every thing; this total absence of self reliance, and self exertion, is the bane and the opprobrium of Indian Society. Why should Government be ever doing, and do every thing? It is the distinguishing characteristic of the Anglo Saxon on both sides the Atlantic, that so much of the business of life is carried on without any reference to the central authorities. In England and America, the various communities do so much for themselves that they can scarcely be said to have need of Government; and this is one of the principal causes of their astonishing superiority over those countries, where the spirit of centralization brings Government into contact with every project, every institution, and every section of the community. Is it to be said that the same race loses all its innate energy and vigor, when transplanted for a time to India, and becomes as much dependent on the leading strings of Government as the grown up children of the East ever have been, and we fear, ever will be? If it be said that the affairs of the Fund are managed by a Calcutta clique, and elected by Calcutta majorities, in whom the Mofussilites have no confidence, why do not the officers at the different stations take the election into their own hands? The Directors of the Military Orphan Society are thus chosen from among officers of the Presidency, by the votes of each Division. Why should not the same plan be adopted at once in reference to the affairs of the Military Fund?

**CHOWDEHARS TAX AT SHAHJAHANPUR.**—We have recently received a copy of the 8th Number of that invaluable repository of statistic facts, the "Selections from Public Correspondence, published by order of the Lieutenant Governor of the North West Provinces." Two of the articles, that which refers to Road-making in the Hills, and that on the comparative cost of Carriage on metalled and unmetalled roads, we have already reviewed. We now proceed to notice another important document published in it, which shows how much more of spirit there is in the administration of the Agra than of the Bengal Division of this Presidency.

We allude to the Chowkedare Assessment in the city of Shajeshanpore, upon which Mr. Buller, the Magistrate, presented a valuable report to the Commissioner in August last. The Regulation 23 of 1810, and the subsidiary enactment 15 of 1857, had never been introduced into that town. The heads of each of the nine-by-four divisions of the town, had the appointment of the chowkedars, and collected a rate, which was both arbitrary and partial. The number of chowkedars, or watchmen, was 128, and the average of their monthly pay was only 1 Rs. 8 As. 1 Ann. attempt was made to improve the system by Mr. Monckton in 1838, but it failed. At length, in June 1848, Mr. Frederick Pole Buller, the Magistrate, having received from the Mullicks, or head men of each division of the town, a resignation of all farther claim to the right of appointing chowkedars, from which they derived no advantage, resolved to revise the assessment and improve the police of the Town. The well known Fils Alee, the Deputy Collector and five other native gentlemen, were appointed to prepare a statement, comprising the names, profession, and circumstances of each householder in the city, with the number of houses and their condition. After the statement had been completed, the inhabitants were required to state their objections to the assessment, and the most careful investigation was made of every claim to abatement or exemption. The scheme has now been completed, and is brought into full operation. The people have submitted to the measure with cheerfulness, and no sort of opposition has throughout been displayed. Only two petitions have been presented to the Commissioner, from a population of 92,786. The number of houses and shops taxed, appears to be 6468 of the former, and 1255 of the latter, while 5117 houses and 150 shops have been exempted. The amount of the Tax under the Mullicks was only 248 Rs. a month. The sum now collected, without a murmur, is 851 Rs. One chowkedar is now allotted to 70 houses, and 11 Inspectors, corresponding in number with the Police Stations and beats in the city, have been appointed Overseers of this constabulary force. The number of chowkedars has been increased to 202, and their average allowances to 8 Rs. The Magistrate has thus the satisfaction of knowing that he pays for the virtues of honesty and fidelity, even if he does not in every instance get them. But in addition to the watch and ward, for which Mr. Buller's spirited exertions have made such ample provision, he has a surplus of 86 Rs. a month, by which he is enabled to retain Twenty sweepers for cleaning the city, and Fifteen beestees for watering the main road. When shall we have the streets of any of the towns of Bengal, either swept or watered?

The success attending the revision of the chowkedare arrangements in Beharunpore has induced Mr. Barnes, the Assistant Magistrate, to attempt to improve those in other large towns in the district, not by the authority of Government, but by persuading the people to adopt them of their own accord, and he has succeeded in prevailing on the inhabitants of four towns, with a population of 26,624, to agree assessments on themselves to the extent of 310 Rs. a month, from which 69 chowkedars are supported.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER.—The Bombay papers give us a report of the speeches which were made at the farewell dinner given by the officers at Kurrachee to Sir Charles Napier, among which that of Sir Charles himself was, of course,

the most remarkable. He did not lose the opportunity thus afforded him of manifesting the bitterness of his hostility towards the public authorities in India. His speech closes thus:

"Lord Ellenborough trusted me as a General Officer and the brave Bombay Army entrusted me nobly. Not as the custom now a days for a General Officer entrusted with command to be told by a Colonel and a Captain that this thing is right, and that thing is wrong! (much cheering). General Officers are unfit for command, in God's name, do not appoint them to command, and I must say there are nine out of ten who ought not to be appointed, but I hold that when one General Officer is appointed to command he ought to be treated as such, he ought to know what is best to the army under his command, and should not be dictated to by boy politicians who do not belong to the army and who know nothing whatever of Military science. It is this Gentlemen, this, that has caused me to resign my command."

It is impossible to mistake the application of the term "boy politicians, who do not belong to the army." On former occasions, that term had reference, in Sir Charles's letters, as he has himself given us to understand, to the Political Agents in Scinde, with whom he came into collision. But in the recent position which he occupied as the head of the army, the Governor General was the only individual by whom he found himself thwarted in his assumption of authority; and the offensive term can have no meaning unless it alludes to Lord Dalhousie. Sir Charles Napier appears, moreover, to have been anxious to avoid all ambiguity, and to leave no doubt on the minds of the public, of the officer against whom this shaft was aimed, and he has therefore contrasted the conduct of Lord Ellenborough, who allowed him to do as he liked, with our present Governor General, who was determined to confine him to the strict limits of his constitutional authority. Sir Charles has accordingly no greater enemy than his own ungrateful passions, and in this instance, he has crowned a series of imprudences, by an allusion, which was intended to be in highest degree offensive, but which can inflict no injury except on his own cause. If any justification was needed of the course pursued by the Governor General, it will be found in the intemperate proceedings, and passionate language of the Commander-in-Chief. Sir Charles is proceeding to England, boiling with indignation at the measures which Lord Dalhousie has adopted, and it is not improbable that he may be so imprudent as force the subject of the differences which led to his resignation on public notice. In this case, Lord Dalhousie's personal friends and official supporters have only to call for the publication of all the correspondence, to fix the blame of these proceedings exclusively on Sir Charles. In time of peace, Sir Charles Napier stands in the same relation to the Governor General as the Commander-in-Chief in England does to Her Majesty's Ministers. In both cases, the powers and functions of the head of the army are constitutionally defined, and it is certain that the Duke of Wellington would no more think of assuming the authority of issuing orders of his own accord, on matters which require the concurrence of the responsible Ministers of the Crown, than he would of allowing any subordinate officer to entrench on his authority. Sir Charles Napier has resigned the command of the army not because "he would not be dictated to by boy politicians who do not belong to the army, and who know nothing whatever of military science," but because, he was resolved to break through those limits which the constitution of the Government of India has imposed on his powers, and found the Governor General too strong for him.

A public entertainment has been provided for him on his arrival at Bombay by those who

stand at the head of society, legal, civil, military and commercial. The surprise which one of our contemporaries has expressed on this occasion appears to be misplaced. After Lord Ellenborough had been dismissed by the Court of Directors, he was feasted by the magnates in Calcutta, and it was at one of these entertainments that he burst forth with the exclamation, "the Directors have done right in relieving me; what can be duller than India in a time of peace?" There can, therefore, be no incongruity in giving a fête to a great Military officer, who is so generous as to resign the command of the army, of himself, when he finds he cannot control the Government. Surely, he deserves a dinner, and all the praise he will obtain at the festive board, for having at once retired from his post, instead of remaining in it to disturb the Harmony of the public administration. As to the inconsistency of the Civilians in joining in a farewell tribute to the man who has applied towards them the bitterest terms of abuse which the language supplies, it seems to be overlooked that the shaft is pre-eminently the age—not of humbug—but of forbearance and magnanimity. Nothing is apparently so soon forgotten or forgiven as great injuries, public or private. To this great Christian virtue, we find men hastening to sacrifice every feeling of personal dignity and consistency of character.

THE VERANDAH QUESTION IN CEYLON which was discussed two or three years ago, not only in the local journals of the Island, but also by the Editors at this Presidency, has almost passed out of recollection. But the publication of correspondence by the Parliamentary Committee appointed to examine the administration of Ceylon last year, has revived the interest of the subject, and the recent receipt of these documents, imposes on us the duty of acknowledging that the view which we were led to take of the matter was incorrect, and that we did not do justice to the motives or the conduct of that portion of the Ceylon Press which was opposed to the tax. From the extreme acerbity of feeling manifested on the occasion, we were led to mistrust the representations which were made, and to conclude that the opposition raised to that measure arose from a fictitious opposition to the constituted authorities. We have every reason, however, to believe that the grievance which the community complained of in this case was real, and not supposititious. It is true that in some cases the verandahs were a recent encroachment and obstructed the thoroughfare, and ought therefore to have been at once removed as a nuisance, but, in the great majority of instances they had existed for a period which is usually considered to establish the right of prescription, and the householders had just reason to complain of the attempt to disturb them. And, as the only legitimate ground of interference was the necessity of promoting the public interests by the removal of these obstructions, the community had still greater reason to complain of the attempt which was made to turn them into a source of revenue, and then to leave them standing. From one of the letters which have been published under the orders of the Parliamentary Committee, it would appear evident that the fees which the owners of the houses were required to pay for the continued enjoyment of their verandahs, was the real, though not the ostensible, cause of this proceeding; and it is impossible, therefore, to consider it in any other light than as an attempt to impose an unjust tax on the people for the

official fees which were likely to accrue from it. The whole transaction reflects the highest discredit on those with whom it originated.

**THE COPPER CURRENCY.**—We beg to call particular attention to the letter in our correspondence columns signed *Myosville*, and which we believe to emanate from one who is thoroughly acquainted with native ideas, and the native mode of doing business. The writer, while allowing that the pice is popular, and the double pice disliked, denies that the issue of the half pice, will in any degree reconcile the natives to the issue of the cowree, or save them from the extraordinary fluctuations to which that shell is subject, and which have within the last two years amounted to upward of forty per Cent. We may notice incidentally that this fluctuation, though varying in different districts, is always in favour of the money changer, and there are good grounds for believing that the pice is kept up at times by a regular combination. In order to explain to our readers the difficulty of issuing a copper coinage adapted to the wants and peculiar arithmetic of Bengal, we give the following table of what is called by the natives the "pucka" coinage, and which is employed in all native accounts. The base of the table is the cowree, but this is by no means the lowest denomination. A krantie is the third part of a cowree, but is unrepresented by any visible token. Then

Three kranties,	=	one cowree.
Four cowrees,	=	one gunda.
Five gundas or 20 cowrees,	=	one pie.
Four pies,	=	one anna.
Four annas,	=	one siccee.

It must be obvious from this table that the changes in the value of the cowree, which are incessant, and almost inexpressible, must have a most disastrous influence on the peasantry, whose purchases are for the most part below the denomination of the pice. It is equally evident that neither the double nor single pie are sufficiently low in value, to banish the use of the cowree, and it is therefore necessary to seek for some coin which shall be so small as to be scarcely divisible, and at the same time shall fit in with the native mode of counting by fours. The half pice recommended by the Court of Directors equals two and a half gundas, or ten cowrees, and our correspondent argues that it will be unpopular from that fact alone, and he therefore recommends a copper token equal to four cowrees, or one gunda. This coin will adapt itself to the native system as readily as the cowrees, while the comparative ease with which it can be handed about, will immediately render it popular, and its definite value will save the people from the combinations of the money changers. He appears to apprehend that there will be some difficulty in striking a coin of so low a value as would be required, namely, less than the third of a fanning, but the coin has been already struck, and is in constant use in Malte. Besides, as the token would be exclusively confined to India, there is no absolute necessity for making it of copper, and many cheaper substitutes might be found, which would avoid of striking a larger coin, with the prospect of equal durability. There is, however, no necessity for such an innovation, as the seigniorage, or profit, on a large issue of these small tokens, would more than equal the expense of issuing them. The amount required to circulate through the country would, it is true, be very large, numerically speaking, but the Government have all along made the great mistake of underestimating the amount of copper coinage, in proportion to the silver required by the necessities

of the community.—A correspondent of *Harker's*, whom we are rejoiced to welcome to the field of discussion, questions the accuracy of our data, as to the number of copper tokens struck within the thirteen years preceding 1848. They were copied verbatim from the printed report of the Finance Committee appointed by Lord Ellenborough; and we received them with confidence, because the Committee were in communication with the Mint Authorities, and were not likely to be misled on such a question. The more the subject is discussed the better for the country. The Court should have before them information furnished by the public, as well as by their own revenue officers.

#### CIVIL ENGINEERING FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

—We would ask the particular attention of Civil Servants under ten years standing to a letter from Agre, which will be found among our correspondence, and which is apparently written by one of their own body. We are confident that nothing which can conduce to their own official utility and to the improvement of the country under their charge, can be indifferent to them. We believe, that with the exception of a few of the very bad bargains of the Honorable Court, there is no young Civilian who would not most cheerfully apply himself to the acquisition of any branch of knowledge, which might become the instrument of good. Our correspondent points out the facilities which are afforded to the Civilian during his furlough, at the College at Putney, for the acquisition of a practical as well as theoretical knowledge of Civil Engineering. No Civilian needs to be informed of the great use which he will find for this knowledge, in a country where the need of improvements so vastly exceeds the means of effecting them. Not only is the corps of Engineers utterly inadequate to the exigencies of the country, but with the large number of Infantry officers whom Government has been obliged to draft into the department of Public works, it is found impossible to make any real progress in improvements. Opportunities are constantly arising for the exercise of whatever knowledge the Magistrate or the Collector may have acquired of Civil Engineering; and we believe that they would not find any other accomplishment more useful to the interests of the country. Every district has a small fund for local improvements, which is expended under the direction of a Committee of which the Magistrate is the leading member. In most cases, the works undertaken by this Committee are necessarily executed without any professional experience. How invaluable in all such cases would be the Civil Engineering experience, which the Civilian is now more particularly invited to acquire. This fact may be more particularly illustrated by two examples. It is well known that a wealthy Native of Jessore, Kallee Poddar, subscribed a large sum for the erection of a bridge over the Rupnarai, which gave way some two or three years ago, and occasioned a very serious loss of life. Though there are ample funds for the work, the bridge has never been set up again, and the country has been deprived of the benefit of it, simply because no Military officer can be spared for the purpose, and no Civilian in the district appears to have such knowledge of the science, as to undertake the responsibility of erecting it with any degree of confidence. Now, look at another picture in the North West, and see the spirited Government of Agre. It became indispensable for the public convenience to cross several causeways and bridges in the

corporate district. The nature of the localities presented the greatest physical difficulties, and for a time they appeared utterly insuperable. No Engineer's office was to be found, and for love of money, and so the Magistrate and Collector, Mr. Deary Carr Tucker, put his own shoulders to the wheel; but, we must give the report of his labors and his success in his own simple and modest language.

"The Government Committee deemed it not a sound plan to employ a large number of men and a strong bridge, with a pier head at the Amre Bridge. The scheme was considered a very wild one, and impossible, by some; as the existing ironwork was so great, that the advantage of a good military road in case of war was, I judge, so evident, that it was resolved to make the bridge, and try what could be done; and the sanction of Government was requested, September 17th 1846. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor in his reply, dated October 18th, 1846, was pleased to 'approve and sanction the scheme,' and was glad to observe that so great a spirit of enterprise animated the members of the Government Committee."

"It was at first supposed that a height of from 10 to 14 feet would be sufficient; the land being 40 feet wide at the top, and 80 at bottom, a berm of 30 feet wide being left on each side, between the bottom of the bank and the canal from which the earth was dug."

"The work was commenced by 300 prisoners and large gangs of hired labourers, and in the month of January 1847 was made and burnt, lime prepared; and the foundations of the Kanwar and Corwar bridges, of three spans of 15 feet each, laid on 24 pillars. During the course of the work, Mr. Deary Carr Tucker, who was Mr. Reside's head-man was dead; and there was no one who had an idea above the head of the Government."

"The main difficulty was, however, the want of Mr. Reside's head-man was dead; and there was no one who had an idea above the head of the Government."

"The arches of the Government's first bridges never exceeded 18 feet. The men, however, got bolder in time; and the Committee decided on a bridge of 36 feet span, a very flat ellipse of only 5 feet rise."

"To get the bricks in these elliptic arches laid true, was another difficulty. In all built bridges, the arches are made from a semi-circular one; but the masons had not an idea how the bricks should be laid, and therefore they used a little machine, of which I enclose a sketch, which easily enabled them to lay every brick in its place."

"During the hot weather of 1846, the Amre was bonded to clear out water from the foundations of a proposed bridge of 8 arches. In all built bridges, the arches are made from a semi-circular one; but the masons had not an idea how the bricks should be laid, and therefore they used a little machine, of which I enclose a sketch, which easily enabled them to lay every brick in its place."

"The other three bridges were completed, but not plastered, before the rains, so that the land was practicable, and the exception of the gap at the Amre Bridge, which was not completed until the end of the year, when a very heavy flood occurred which toppled the land, and carried away a great deal of earth in the middle of the bridge, and a bridge on the land, and projecting the more exposed parts by branches of trees, and the bridge was not finished. There were within a few inches of the top, and the waves of the 8 or 9 exposure of water were leading on the range of heavy branches which had been put in the water. It was rather a nervous situation for the amateur architect."

"The great difficulty was to get earth, which would only be got from the high land at either end of the bridge, and the attempt had nearly been relinquished, and the mud left to the fate."

"When the flood ceased to flow, it was found that two piers and one abutment of the Amre bridge had been completely undermined, the piers thrown flat, and the abutment fairly turned top-sy-turvy with the bottom layers of kankar and brick uppermost in the air. This, though disastrous, as showing the wretched state we had to deal with, was so satisfactory as proving the substantial manner in which the bricks had been put together. The whole formed one huge tunnel, which we had exceeding great difficulty in breaking up, as we had no practical knowledge of blasting, and was afraid of blowing up some of my prisoners."

"The prisoners and labourers were again set to work, and the network of the land raised from 2 to 5 feet above its former level."

"Three new piers were added to the Amre Bridge, and to get out of the way of the insecure foundation of one of the other piers, the new one was placed around it, so as to make the centre capital and pier. These new piers and the new abutment were built on cylinders."

"A new bridge of 7 arches of 24 and 40 feet span was also commenced near the former Bijay one, and 24 cylinders sunk from 10 to 20 feet, and the abutments and piers carried up to the spring of the arches."

"The rains of 1847 were even heavier than those of 1846, and the water was so high that it was necessary to build the oldest inhabitant. On the 7th October, the land was completely over-topped, the water reaching to the corners of the bridges, 3 or 4 feet above the crown of the arches, and carrying away a great deal of earth. However, the four completed bridges were not injured, and the water was not driven into the 11th arch of Amre Bridge, not one of which was in the least. This was creditable to the masonry; as with such a rush of water and without the superior thrust of arches, it would not have been wonderful had some of these high piers been blown down."

"Of the unfortunate new Bijay bridge, one abutment and two piers, although built on cylinders, were completely rooted up, and quite washed away. The water was broken down at their sides, and the slabs of mud hung in two huge masses, and the water was so high that the mud was a deep mould for 230 feet."

"The season of 1848-49, was trying. It seemed as if the more rains were taken to lay down the foundations, the worse the work was, and of course the feeling spread, that the scheme was impossible, and that the land could not be drained."

"The Government Committee, however, were not discouraged, but determined to continue the work, which might be supposed to be the extreme waterway required in the severest flood, by a new bridge of 15 arches

of 34 feet each span. Byrd built several, in old style guided chandler, who had built several in India. The work was ended by the work; and by dint of hard work the whole 18 arches were completed. The bridge was made possible from end to end before the rain.

**THE MALAYAN TIMES.**—The *Malayian Times* is dead, and the *Malayian Times*, a paper set on foot by a gentleman who was part proprietor of the former journal of that name, has taken its place. The new journal is a bold and faithful advocacy of every principle by which the freedom and happiness of society can be advanced; "a high dignity of purpose," "copious and accurate intelligence," and almost every other newspaper excellence. From the £5, numbers which have yet reached us, we are bound to declare that it is more distinguished by editorial ability, and perhaps also by its impartiality than any of its numerous predecessors.

## WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30.

—The *Marine* informs us, that the *Marine* authorities have prepared three small houses, which are to be put up on Sengur Island, and which are to be occupied by three European sailors. A supply of water, and a quantity of bread will be stored away in the buildings, and water preserved in iron tanks, and reserved at the convenience of every occasion. The dwellers in the houses, the survivors of the *Arcton* when brought up from the island, appear to have had the effect due, both upon the Marine Authorities and the Government, and we hope the plan now about to be carried into execution will effectually prevent the recurrence of such a scene of suffering.

—The *Epiphany* alluding to the ceremonies with which processions are generally got up, in connection with a case strongly in point, which we have hitherto omitted to notice. A man was indicted for obtaining under false pretences, the sum of Rs. 1000, being lawful coin of the realm. Unfortunately the money was not in the form of notes, which are not coin, and the accused was discharged without trial. The appointment of a public prosecutor, paid by the State, and responsible for the due prosecution of his duty, would prevent the recurrence of such mistakes, which make law a mere mockery.

—We perceive from a letter published in the *Hurkar*, that the steamer *N. F. Croft*, belonging to the C. I. & S. Company, met with a disaster. The vessel was running on a kurruck bank, and the Commander was compelled to back her off, and subsequently, as she was making water fast, and the bank was so high, she was applied "Maid" with seamen like readiness of resources—to repair the injuries she had sustained.

—The *Bombay Times* states that a paper is going the round of Presidentials, for the object of the establishment of a Society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. At the head of the list stands Lord Falkland's name, and it is proposed to ask the Legislative Council for an Act similar to that which is in force in England. Although we heartily sympathize with the design of these gentlemen, we believe such an Act as the one proposed would be in the highest degree inoperative. It might prevent a little animal suffering, but it would greatly increase that of human beings, as it would instantly become a fertile source of revenue and extortion to the Police. The human race would be more than the animal race pained. Pulling a cow's tail as natives pull it, is unquestionable cruelty, but an Act declaring such pulling an offence, would cause the rapid ruin of every bull-dog-driver in Calcutta. We cannot guide his hand without pulling the tail, and he would be placed in a very easy day.

—We regret to perceive from the *Bombay Journals* that Chitara has been committed to prison for a term of ten days. Five hundred persons had fallen victims to it within a short time, and, according to the *Bombay Times*, they were still dying at the rate of fifty a day.

—The *Bombay Government* has received a report from the Board of Control, that to have received an income from some invisible hand, to pay attention to the necessities of India. We are not sure that the appointment of Mr. Fallow, as a salary of Rs. 400 a month, to make copies of the most celebrated sculptures in the caves of Western India. We now perceive from the *Bombay Times*, that the Government has authorized an expenditure of Rs. 9400, for copies of the ruins of Bel in the province of Bengal. Government should ever be induced, at any future period of time, to think of such a matter, the ruins of Gaur would afford a field for artistic study and research.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31.

—A correspondent of the *Delhi Gazette*, writing from Peshawar, states, that no numerous and undisturbed are the disorders around the native army, who party go out, it is the custom to return surrounded by all the servants, bearing shields and plumes, while the head of the horse is in front, and a double-headed eagle is on the shield. Having the monstrous character of life as most Indian states, Peshawar must be rather a lively place.

—The *Chitran* of Wednesday quotes a curious old prophecy, uttered by the Ancestral of the Gwalior Court,

shaded in the *Agre Ubbah* in June 1844. The prophecy, or rather prediction as to the future prospects of the Lahore Government, declared, that the chivalry and prowess of the Sikhs and the British, would be gloriously displayed on the right bank of the Sutlej and before Lahore, and after five sanguinary engagements, the domination of the Sikhs would cease for ever. The five engagements, accordingly, correspond with Moodkee, Ferozshah, Aliwal, Chillianwalla, and Gujrat.

—Very, the perceptions of the Lahore Government, underwent the last sentence of the law yesterday. He died with great firmness, but apparently without the usual condition for the crime he had committed. Owing to some bungling in the arrangements, the torture of the unfortunate man was most unnecessarily protracted, and we are informed on the authority of one who timed the scene with his watch, he had but fifteen minutes elapsed from the fall of the drop to the agonies when the stillness of the body showed that all was over. A report has been spread throughout Calcutta, that the wretched man, in his last moments, confessed to having committed several other murders, but the report appears at present to be rather apocryphal.

—The *Chitran* quotes a share list from an Adelaide journal, giving the present prices of the shares in the most important mining establishments of that Colony. From this we perceive that there are no less than 29 associations in South Australia, apparently flourishing, though, as the original prices of the shares are not given, we are unable to form a judgment of their comparative prosperity. The shares in the Burns Burns copper mine, are, however, selling at a high price, after having been 43 a share. The *Epiphany* also notices a great change which has been made by the legislature of South Australia, in the terms upon which the great sheep pastures are held. Formerly, the sheep farmer or Government might be turned out without any reason assigned, but for the future, they will receive leases, which in practice will run on as long as the small Government rent is duly paid.

—We perceive from a General Order by the Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Provinces, dated the 18th January 1861, that a reward not exceeding Rs. 100 will be given to any person who may give material assistance in the apprehension of convicts escaped from Jail. The system of inducing the population of a district to assist the officers of justice by large rewards has not been sufficiently extended in the Bengal District, if carried out with vigour, would have the effect of sowing distrust among all the great gangs of robbers who infest the country, and reduce them, as in England, to the necessity of pursuing their trade, or in coupling, would tend to increase the chances of a successful resistance.

—We regret to notice in the *Madras Journals* an account of a French steamer, the *Arcton*, a vessel well known in the port of Calcutta. She sprung a leak shortly after her departure from Coringa, on the 9th instant, and was compelled to run on the beach at Madras, where she was subsequently wrecked.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

—The *Weekly Journal* of the 31st January comes out with a lithographed drawing of the four Americans who were tried for the murder at the Ice-house. The attempt to introduce illustrations into a Calcutta journal, however commendable it may be, is, we fear, rather premature. We have never seen the accused Americans, and cannot tell if the portraits are likenesses, but they certainly have as little defined expression as it is possible for faces to convey.

—We are happy to perceive from the *Chitran* that the story of the filthy and disgusting in the execution of the shipwrecked lady is without foundation. Our contemporary derives his information from one who "in the performance of his duties was obliged to stand close by the drop." The *Chitran* mentions that on the authority of private letters from Colombo, that the security of silver which was not so severely felt in Madras and Bombay, has extended itself to Ceylon. Bills on England are quoted at 14 per cent. discount, which is said to be equivalent to an Exchange of 24 3/4 in the rupee. The coffee crop of 1860 will, it is reported, be less than that of the previous year by more than 50 per cent.

—The *Epiphany* states that even Government officials in the Mofussil, are beginning to feel the inconvenience caused by doing away with the system of registration, as the story of the filthy and disgusting in the execution of the shipwrecked lady is without foundation. Our contemporary derives his information from one who "in the performance of his duties was obliged to stand close by the drop." The *Chitran* mentions that on the authority of private letters from Colombo, that the security of silver which was not so severely felt in Madras and Bombay, has extended itself to Ceylon. Bills on England are quoted at 14 per cent. discount, which is said to be equivalent to an Exchange of 24 3/4 in the rupee. The coffee crop of 1860 will, it is reported, be less than that of the previous year by more than 50 per cent.

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—The *Madras United Service Gazette* mentions the case of a late Principled Builder Assen of Chingleput, whose high and meritorious services had earned for him the esteem of the Government of that Presidency. On his decease, his widow applied to Government for a pension, but it was discovered on enquiry, that her husband had left a sum of Rs. 18,000, bequeathed a considerable legacy. The pension was therefore rejected, but the Government, in order to show their regard for long and faithful services, have

ordered the four sons of the deceased to be educated free of expense, at the Madras University. The Government is kindly and graciously conferred, and will prove to the native population, that the Government feel they cannot better reward an old servant, than by enabling his descendants to pursue the same career.

—We perceive from an Advertisement in the papers that, for the future, shipping orders will not be granted for Arracan or Mactan, until the goods have been brought to the Frontier of India. The Government has for this arrangement is, that parties have been in the habit of applying for more freight than they actually require, to the exclusion of other goods, and consequent loss to Government.

—The *Agre Messenger* has been informed "upon excellent authority," that the Simla Bank intends to apply for Registration under the new Act.

—The *Delhi Gazette* quotes from a number of the "Selections from Government Records," the following address reproduced addressed by Mr. H. C. Thacker, C. S. to the gentlemen who preside over the Public works of Bengal:

"In closing their report on the Curves-Ram band, the Committee cannot but again call the attention of Government to the impolicy of trying the legs of the Executive Engineers to their desks, and leaving the Commissioners to examine and keep the accounts, and leaving the Engineers free to run about their divisions, and give their most valuable aid to the Local Government. The Committee, with the exception of a slight stretch of a bridge, has received no assistance whatever from the trained Engineers of Government, and has consequently had to find its way as it best could. It is to be regretted that the great number of men who have been sent to the Engineers, who should be left to their stations, while the Engineers, who could direct them more advantageously, are confined to mere desk-work, and allowed to remain idle. The Committee, however, is of the opinion that the present system is utterly bad, and a better one is needed the better. Till then, even with the very best intentions, Magistrates and Committees must waste much labour in expediting the work, and the result will be engineering skill, and all they can do is to do their best."

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

—The *Hurkar* quotes from the *National Standard* a statement about the proposed plan, to open a Canal through Egypt. It appears that he intends rather to demonstrate the total impracticability of cutting a Canal through the Isthmus of Suez, than to make in the development of the project. Mr. Stephenson's plan is to construct a Railway from Alexandria to Cairo, as the immense traffic between those two cities would prove simply remunerative. The *Epiphany* remarks that the Directors of the Decca Bank are advertising a dividend for the past half year at the rate of eight per cent. per annum.

—The *Calcutta Recorder* states that the *Epiphany*, supplies us with his usual budget of gossip, but his conclusion only one of fact importance. The Sultan has, it is rumored, ordered Akbar Khan to expend a certain portion of the revenues of Egypt in the amelioration of the country. This rumor is rendered credible by the inclination for reform, which has long been shown by the present Sultan, and by the fact that the treaty which, according to the hereditary Pashas of Egypt, to the family of Mehmet Ali, also provided that the Sultan might dispose any number of that family who should dignify his ordinances, and replace him by another of the same race.

—The *Bombay Journals* publish the proceedings of a Court Martial held upon Captain H. B. C. Moyle, charged with having sent to a brother officer, an anonymous letter, containing "gross and malicious imputations" against the character of that officer's wife, and also with having insulted and sexually debased the name. The Court found the accused guilty of all the charges, and sentenced him to be cashiered, but, as he had been in the service for 25 years, and ground that the original sending of the letter was only an error of judgment, and the subsequent effect, the effect of making a charge, the Court, in the exercise of its prerogative, remitted the sentence. It is impossible to judge from the *Moyle* particulars before us, by what considerations the Court Martial were really influenced in their recommendation, but the remission appears to us to be a very mistaken act of lenity.

—The *Mythical* states that the Local Committee of Carriage have received orders to prepare a large building in that station, to be used as a College, as the Governor General deems that spot the best adapted to commence the work of national Education in the Punjab. An annual grant of Rs. 5000 has been made for the endowment of the College, and there is every probability of a successful issue to the experiment.

—The *Lakers Chronicle* announces, apparently upon good authority, that the Queen has, through Lord and Lady Russell, expressed her interest in the case of Sir Walter Gilbert to the Baroness, in consideration of his distinguished services against the Sikhs in 1846-47, and 1848-49.

—The *Western Standard* announces that Captain G. Newbold was at April 1st appointed Secretary to the Military Board, in succession to Captain J. C. Scott.

—The same journal notices with regret, the death of Mrs. Ellis, of the 10th Regiment of Foot, and of the 19th Punjab Regiment. There are several Jews, we believe, in this Company's army, and one or two who are connected with the highest families among their own people.

—The *Bombay Journals* publish the draft of a new Act,















# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 31st of the ensuing Month of March for the departure of the next steamer therefrom, a letter for Serap—No. 1, accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Thursday, the 29th instant, and that the first sale of the Overland Passes will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Wednesday, the 19th Idem.

J. R. BURNES REVENUE,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, 1st February, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editor of the Friend of India begs to acknowledge the following Donations:—

For Mrs. Jahan, Collected by Mrs. Wylie.	
Mrs. Dickens, .....	50 0
Dr. Leslie, through Mrs. Lamb, .....	25 0
Rev. A. Hamilton, .....	15 0
Mrs. Jagan, .....	4 0
P. M. W., .....	4 0
Sent to the Rev. W. S. Mackay.	
Mrs. Hugh Fraser, .....	20 0
Capt. H. Jay, 2d subscription, .....	40 0
Sent to the Friend of India.	
H. Scott, Esq., .....	50 0

**PROGRESS OF THE RAIL.—**We are happy to learn that advice have been received by the last mail that the Court of Directors have given their consent to the extension of the Rail from Pandook to the Collieries, as recommended by Lord Dalhousie. No time will be lost in commencing the necessary survey operations, and we trust that in three years more, Calcutta will be supplied with a cheaper and more excellent coal than that which is now used. Major Kennedy and Mr. Turnbull have proceeded to survey the line along the banks of the Ganges, with the view of ascertaining whether it would not be more feasible and advisable to run the line from Pandook to Rajmahal, and from thence along the right bank of the Ganges to Mirzapore, than to continue it in a direct line from the Collieries to that mart. Of course, every idea of breaking the line, by employing Steamers between Rajmahal and Allahabad is out of the question. When the line has been thus surveyed, the result will be submitted to the Government of India, and the Court of Directors.

We are also happy to add that the operations on the line in our neighbourhood, have been quickened. Mr. Lushington has made over three entire miles of the line to the Railway establishment, and though the present season has been lost, it is gratifying, to find that the obstacles to progress presented by "the passive resistance of circumstances," so constantly felt in the East, are steadily disappearing, and that the contractors are now enabled to carry on their labours with alacrity and zest. We have no longer any doubt that the Rail will be carried on from Calcutta to Delhi, if not to Lahore, without any interruption. The abundance of unemployed capital at home at the present time, and the cheapness of iron, will naturally suggest the propriety of extending the capital and the operations of the Company.

**THE HAYLESBURY COMMERCIALS.—**The last Mail brings us—in *Allen's Indian Mail*—a full report of the proceedings at Haylebury on the 24th of December, at the close of the term. These proceedings, become the more in-

teresting as the Charter draws to a close, and the period approaches for a searching enquiry into the efficiency of the plans for the Government of India. It is easy to perceive from the address of the Chairman, Mr. Shepherd,—whose speeches always justify the influential position in which he has been placed—and more especially from that of the Principal, that the Court of Directors are particularly anxious to create a favourable impression in the public mind of the utility and results of the system adopted at Haylebury. Our Honourable Masters are diligently employed in making out a good case for a renewal of the Charter, and they have great hopes of being able to make this institution tell in their favour. We believe no one is disposed to deny them the credit of a sincere and earnest desire to render it a real blessing to India, and to fit the young statesmen whom they educate in it for the important duties which are to be entrusted to them in India. But those who have had an opportunity of testing the success of these efforts, after the arrival of the young Civilian in India, cannot have failed to perceive, that the system needs great reform, that the course of study gives the young gentlemen a smattering of every thing and a mastery of nothing, and is therefore peculiarly ill-adapted to the exigencies of the public service in India. Now that this day of enquiry is approaching, it will not be forgotten how many improvements, have been repeatedly suggested by those who were competent to estimate the character of the system, which have been entirely neglected by the Directors. We are told in Holy Writ that in the multitude of counsellors there is safety, but in this case the safety is for the counsellors, whose numbers enable them to perpetrate errors with perfect impunity. Though there are no fewer than Twenty-four members in the Court of Directors, none of them appear to have been able to command time for a close investigation and a salutary reform of the system of tuition. For the present, we confine our remarks to the study of the Oriental languages at Haylebury, one of the most important branches of the education of the Civilian, and one on which the Directors are disposed to take great credit to themselves. On a reference to the list of Medals, Prizes, and other honourable distinctions bestowed on the students, we find them to stand thus:

For Marhatta, .....	1
Hindee, .....	2
Telooquo, .....	3
Persian, .....	3
Hindoostanee, .....	3
Sungkrit, .....	5

That is to say, out of Seventeen prizes, Eight were given for Sungkrit and Persian; and of these the highest number was bestowed for the study of Sungkrit, the language of the Gods, which never yet was spoken by man, and three were given for Persian, which was excluded from our Courts, Fifteen years ago. Bengalee is the language of one-third of the population subjected to the government of the E. I. Company, and of the Civilians in actual service in both divisions of this Presidency, one-third are employed in the kingdom of Bengal, yet not a single prize or medal was given for proficiency in it, nor does it appear from the report, to receive any attention in an Institution which pro-

poses to train up men for the public service in it. It is one of the most singular instances of self-deception that clear-headed men like Mr. Shepherd and Sir James Hogg, should allow themselves to entertain the idea, that while such a system is persisted in, that institution can be entitled to the admiration, or even the confidence of the public. The fact is, that the Directors never exercise the slightest thought on the subject. Having appointed an eminent orientalist, the visitor of the College, and resigned the oriental studies to his exclusive direction, they consider themselves at liberty to turn a deaf ear to the remonstrances of those who point out the errors of the system. We have a great respect for the attainments of Dr. Wilson, and consider that he has laid the public under the greatest obligations by his labours in oriental literature. But those studies which are highly important to one employed in unlearning the learned language of the East, are miserably out of place for those whose business is to administer justice to the people in their vernacular tongue. Every great man has a feeling of monomania regarding his own distinguishing pursuit. Dr. Wilson's monomania is Sungkrit, and happy it is for the European world, that this is the case. It has enabled us to read the nonsense of the Rig Veda, in our own tongue, and to compare it with the inspired volume on which our own faith is founded. But this is no reason why the Directors of the East India Company should sacrifice the interests of the country to this feeling. Dr. Wilson's great reputation does not exonerate them from the necessity of exercising their own judgment, in so important a matter as the education of their own servants. It is in India that the result of this system is to be tested; and we speak with a thorough knowledge of that result, and the opinion which is entertained on the subject by some of the ablest men among us, when we say that the Directors have incurred a serious responsibility by the perpetration of this preposterous system. The two languages required for the business of the sixty millions of people at this Presidency are the Urdu,—which is, we believe, synonymous with the Hindoostanee of Haylebury,—and the Bengalee, and these are the two languages least attended to at this College. The two languages which have the least bearing on the future duties of the Civilian are the Sungkrit, a dead language, and the Persian, an expelled one, and these are the two languages to which the most strenuous efforts of the youths are directed. It is an incontrovertible fact, that a better knowledge of the languages of the East is to be acquired in one month in the country itself, than can be acquired at Haylebury in six. Nothing more is required for the students who are sent out here but such a light and general knowledge of the current dialects of the Presidencies, as shall enable them to make themselves understood when they land. It would be the greatest economy of time if the Directors could be persuaded to transfer the months now wasted on Sungkrit and Persian to the study of the laws of England and the laws of India, and to Civil Engineering, and thus leave the Civilian to begin, and prosecute, and complete the study of the native languages in the country in which they are current.

MR. GEO. FLOWDEN, and THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS.—After about three months of discussion, it has been at length determined to send Mr. Geo. Flowden, the Secretary of the Board of Revenue, to officiate during the absence of Mr. Robert Torrens, as Commissioner of Revenue at Chittagong. The appointment has given considerable umbrage to a large body in the service. Though it is only temporary at present, it is understood to give Mr. Flowden a prior claim over others in the service to one of the first permanent appointments of the same class which may become vacant. Mr. Torrens was the youngest Commissioner in the service; and Mr. Flowden is four years and a half his junior. Between these two officers there are no fewer than twenty-five Judges and Collectors who have been accustomed to look forward with confidence to the acquisition of a Commissionership, in their own turn, and whom Mr. Flowden will thus supersede. Yet, it is manifest that no one can be better qualified to superintend the revenue collections of a circle of districts, than the Secretary of the Sudder Board. But the appointment is an invasion of the sacred and inalienable rights of seniority; and the present may be but the beginning of woes. The Bengal Government, having now taken the bold step of inserting the thin end of the wedge, may possibly be encouraged to drive it home, and thus throw open the gates of office in the Lower Provinces to the claims of merit and ability, to the same extent as they are open in the North West Provinces. To us, who consider a tame submission to the imperious demands of seniority as the base of the service, and the opprobrium of the Government, it affords the most unfeigned pleasure to witness this successful attempt to break through the rule, and we are certain that if it is honestly, impartially, and energetically followed up, it will do the Honorable Company no small service at the approaching Parliamentary scrutiny. It has been said, we perceive, that Mr. Flowden's appointment is to be attributed to the connection of Mr. Grant, the Bengal Secretary, with his family. But of all the men in the service, Mr. Grant is, we believe, the least affected by any such considerations. On the contrary, one great objection brought against him is, that every question of appointment to office which comes before him is reduced to a simple equation, and decided upon the same cold and rigid calculation on which he would work a mathematical problem. But if every appointment in the Civil Service, in regard to which any family or matrimonial connection can be traced between the party who receives an office, and the individual who is supposed to have been the instrument of bestowing it, is to be stigmatised as a job, what appointment will be free from this charge? The habit of intermarriage in the Civil Service has so rapidly increased within the last quarter of a century, as to remind one of the perpetual marrying in and in among the petty princes of Germany, and the result will, probably, in both cases be the same. It is scarcely any longer a hyperbole to say that every Civilian is connected with every other Civilian by birth or marriage.

Be that as it may. Let us turn from the individual case in which these remarks originate, to the broader and more important question of the principle by which these appointments are now regulated. The Civil and Sessions Judge is considered as having the first claim to a Revenue Commissionership, and the Senior Commissioner, in his turn, considers himself unjustly treated, if he does not obtain the first vacancy on the bench of the Sudder. The only

apparent ground for this arrangement is that the Commissioner receives 410 Rs. a month more than the Civil Judge, and the Sudder Judge 1384 Rs. a month more than the Commissioner. But there is little, if any, connection between the functions of these offices. The experience gained in the one gives no assistance for discharging the duties of the other. To those who are not disposed to adopt the maxim that whatever is, is right, it appears a most whimsical arrangement that a man should serve four or five years as a Collector, and then be transferred to the Civil Bench; that after he has had four or five years' training in the practice of the Civil Courts, he should be sent back to the Revenue line, to superintend settlements and collections, and when he has thoroughly mastered the fiscal duties of this office, he should be again posted back to the Civil and Criminal department, to preside in the highest Court in the country. This system will not stand investigation; the only reasons which are assigned in extenuation of it, are similar to those which are usually brought forward in favor of an anomalous system, because there is no disposition to correct it; and the only reason why it is suffered to continue, is, that we are waiting for the advent of a second reformer, with the clearness of intellect, and the stern resolution of purpose, which characterized Lord William Bentinck. We would have the Magistracy united with the Collectorate, in the Lower as in the North West Provinces. We were once among the most strenuous advocates for divorcing the two appointments, but experience has convinced us of our error, and we are now disposed to urge the junction of the offices, as earnestly as we once opposed to it. This separation of offices has led to the appointment of very young men as Magistrates; and although we could point out several instances in which the young Magistrate has shown that he has a very mature head on his shoulders, and has been able to combine the steadiness of age with the activity of youth, and yet, to keep his district in admirable order, thus, on the whole, we are inclined to think that the strong objections which the public, both European and Native, have urged against the juvenility of the Magistrates, are too often well founded. It is a strong argument against any system of Police that it does not enjoy the confidence of the public for whose protection it is established; and we believe that the public confidence, as well as the efficiency of the service, would be abundantly promoted, if the office of Magistrate and Collector were united. In that case we should require Joint Magistrates and Deputy Collectors to be appointed on 1000 Rs. a month. Some of the ablest of these junior officers might be selected, on the ground of superior merit, for the office of Register of the Civil Court upon higher allowances; and their names should then be finally discharged from the revenue Roll, and they should be taught to look for future promotion exclusively in the line of Civil and Criminal Justice. The remainder of the Joint Magistrates should in like manner be led to confine their expectations to the Revenue department. The two departments would thus be rendered complete in themselves, as to their prospects and their promotion. Men would not then be required to jump backward and forward from one ladder to the other, for the mere enjoyment of higher pay; the Registrar would look to the office of Civil and Sessions Judge, and the Judge to a seat on the Sudder bench, as the reward of his talents and assiduity. In like manner, the Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector would

look to the office of Collector and Magistrate; that officer again to the Revenue Commissionership, and the Commissioner to the Sudder Board of Revenue, as the routine office of this promotion. As soon it is made the rule to give the Commissionerships to the most active and meritorious Collectors, without submission to the rights of Seniority, the office will regain that position, as it regards public estimation, and intrinsic utility, which it has lost by the present gradation arrangement.

THE COPPER COINAGE.—A correspondent of the *Herbster*, has written on the subject of the Copper Coinage, impugning the correctness of our statement regarding the amount of copper tokens coined in the thirteen years preceding the year 1844. He has himself given so very circumstantial an account of the number of pieces of copper money which he asserts to have been coined at the Mint from 1795 to 1844, as to lead the *Herbster* to throw our statement overboard. We therefore quote our authority from the printed Report of the Finance Committee, presented to Lord Ellenborough on the 1st of June, 1844, and signed by F. J. Millett, Mr. T. R. Davidson and Mr. J. A. Dorin.

For this purpose, assuming that the cost of the Building and Machinery of the Mint was Rs. 50,000, and that it was completed in 1828-29, the current Charges will stand thus:

	Co's Rs.
Interest at 5 per cent. on that sum for 13 years, ...	19,500,000
Repairs, ...	15,000
Minor Master's Establishment, ...	38,84,232
Assay Master's Ditto, ...	5,60,001
Mint Comptroller, ...	1,14,134
Loss of Weight in Gold Coinage, ...	80,002
Ditto Silver Ditto, ...	5,000
Copper used as Alloy, ...	50,154
Stores supplied, ...	1,04,643
Manufacture of Weights, ...	38,171
Sundries, ...	45,008
<b>Total, ...</b>	<b>58,07,288</b>

The current Receipts will be as follows:

	Co's Rs.
Seigniorage of 1 per cent. on Gold Coin, ...	1,02,878
9,09,281 pieces or value in Co's Rs. ...	1,02,878
Seigniorage of 2 per cent. on Silver Coin value, ...	61,72,700
ed in Co's Rs. 20,36,50,545, ...	61,72,700
Seigniorage on Copper Coins say at 16 per cent. on 52,55,04,800 pieces value in Co's Rs. 525,550,115-2 ...	8,40,945
Gain on refining Gold and Silver, ...	60,422
Gain on the Alligation of Gold, &c. ...	30,804
Gain on re-minting Silver Rupee, &c. ...	6,073
Sale of Sheet Copper, &c. ...	18,238
Sundries, ...	1,06,628
Metals, ...	2,438
Refunds, ...	9,000
Cost of Weights, &c. ...	55,945
<b>Total, ...</b>	<b>54,02,614</b>

According to this calculation the Current Expenses have exceeded the Current Receipts during the period under review by Co's Rs. 3,64,674.

	Rs.
Charges, ...	58,07,288
Receipts, ...	54,02,614
<b>Total, ...</b>	<b>3,64,674</b>
The Government gain consisting of the difference between the intrinsic price of Copper, &c. as used as Coin during these thirteen years was Rs. 35,08,500.	
And the loss by Sale of Copper Scrap, Rupees 1,10,000.*	
The Charge for Copper used in the Mint in the preceding Statement is Rs. 5,00,154.	
The account of the Copper Coinage, therefore, will stand thus:	
Gain, ...	35,08,500
Loss on Scrap, ...	1,10,000
Gain, ...	34,84,232
Cost of Coinage, ...	5,40,945
<b>Net gain to Government, ...</b>	<b>18,43,839</b>

\* Less, Gain, ... 1,21,243  
Gain, ... 1,716  
1,10,527

From this statement it will appear that the Finance Committee, after a careful research among the books of the Mint, informed the Governor General that the number of pieces coined in the New Mint, in thirteen years, was 628 millions, whereas the correspondent of the *Herbster* states that only 560 millions have been coined since 1795. But as he gives us at the same time the relative proportion of double,



The first section of the Act specified what Companies are within the terms of the Act. That section is in the following words:—

Every incorporated company of persons, associated under a deed constituting a partnership, and having a stock or business of the said Company are transferable without the consent of all the partners, and the every Company established for some literary, scientific or charitable purpose, which does not carry on business for the pecuniary benefit of the directors or shareholders, shall be entitled to registration under this Act.

Now the Landable Society has no deed at all, nor is its Capital Stock divided into shares, and in order to be the Stock Company, indeed even if there were a deed, it would be difficult to bring an association like the Landable, within the purview of the Act. Every policy holder becomes a partner by the terms of the Policy, but the Policy has little, if any, analogy to a Share Certificate in a Joint Stock Company. It represents no absolute and permanent interest in the Capital stock; for many of the Policies are for limited periods, and even as regards those for the whole period of life, the right to the sum assured is contingent upon the event of the death of the party assured, and of the Policy being duly kept up and in force, on the happening of that event.

We have no doubt that Mr. Morton is correct in his interpretation of the law, but we think it is equally obvious that it was the intention of the Act to bring within its scope all the great partnerships which under the name of Societies and Companies so frequently spring up in India. We were already to require an Act to amend an Act passed in the year of Grace, 1850, and entitled Act 48.

#### BAJEJ ROW IS DEAD.—Who is Bajee Row?

Thirty-two years have elapsed since the movements of this individual were the chief object of interest to the Native princes and the European community of India; while his very existence has for many years past been remembered only by the annual annuity of his pension bill. At the commencement of the Pindaree and Marahatta war of 1817 and 1818, he was the head of the Marahatta States, and enjoyed the sovereignty of extensive dominions, of which Poona was the capital. An act of the basest treachery on his part brought him into collision with the British Government, and led to the downfall of his house. He was pursued by our troops from province to province, and at length found himself so completely hemmed in by the various divisions of our army, in the neighbourhood of Aaseerghur, that not the smallest chance of escape remained to him. In a very short time, he must either have surrendered himself unconditionally, or have stood the risk of an attack, the event of which could not have been doubtful. The management of the affair was unfortunately entrusted by Lord Hastings to Sir John Malcolm. When Bajee Row found at length that there was no possibility for escape from the net which our divisions were drawing closer and closer around him, he determined to send his Agent to Sir John's camp with a letter "containing an appeal to the generosity of the British Government, and a spice of adulation to the General himself, whom, in a strain of Asiatic complement, he protested he had been looking out for on every ridge, as one of his oldest and best friends, in order to solicit him to become the means of reconciliation with the British Government." Sir John, who must have been certain that in the course of ten days, at the farthest, the faithless Pindah was obliged to surrender without terms, was led, by some unaccountable hallucination, to convert this communication into a negotiation for surrender on terms, and most unwisely sent his two political Assistants, Lieutenants Low and McDowell with his reply, and with instructions to commence negotiations.

The Marquess of Hastings, who had retired to Gorruckpore at the close of the campaign, on hearing of this proceeding on the part of Sir John Malcolm, lost no time in writing to deprecate it. He stated that Bajee Row could have but one motive for submission

—the desperate position of his affairs. Another reason with our divisions must complete his ruin. His Lordship appeared to think such a negotiation would create the impression that it was not a treaty made with one who was obliged to resort to us for safety, on any terms, but a bargain founded upon a mutuality of interest. He was also extremely anxious lest Government should be committed by Sir John in respect of the captive's future residence, and the amount of his stipend, which he declared it to be his intention to limit to Two lakhs of Rupees a year. Instead of waiting for instructions from the Governor General, Sir John urged on his negotiations with breathless haste, and before the communication quoted above could reach him, had already concluded that arrangement with the fugitive prince, who was now so completely in his power, by which he bound the British Government to grant him an annual stipend for life of *Nine lakhs* of Rupees, or £90,000.—Mr. Prinsep says £100,000. Lord Hastings, though he highly disapproved of the arrangement, did not think it advisable to disavow it, and the bargain was accordingly confirmed. This is the most objectionable and indefensible measure connected with the name of Malcolm, and reflects the highest discredit on his political wisdom. After this arrangement had been completed, Bajee Row retired to Beitoor, in the vicinity of Cawnpore, and from the 3d of June 1819, to the beginning of February, 1851, that is, through a period of nearly Thirty-two years, continued to receive this extravagant stipend from the Company's Treasury, and to expend it in those sensual pleasures and those superstitious observances, into which the native mind sinks when it has ceased to have any active or honorable pursuit. During this period, he has received a sum little short of Three Millions Sterling. The uninterrupted payment of such a sum to one who had no claim whatever on our clemency, in without example in the East. No Hindoo or Mahomedan sovereign would have thus continued, year after year, to deprive himself of so large a sum for the benefit of a captive, and either the amount of the stipend, or the life of the stipendiary would have been abridged at a very early period. The fidelity with which this engagement has been maintained, notwithstanding the severe exigencies of our treasury, will serve as a standing monument of the good faith of the British Government in the eyes of the princes and people of India. We rejoice that the sum has been so paid; but we are rejoiced still more to learn that it has now ceased, and that this large amount will be rescued from the support of a body of useless priests, and become available for the improvement of the country.

**THE SECRETARIESHIP OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.**—The arrangement mentioned in another article, which sends Mr. Plowden to Chittoor to officiate as Commissioner, creates a temporary vacancy in the Secretarieship of the Board of Revenue. The case stands thus: That Board and the Salt Board have recently been rolled into one, and the Secretary of the old Board of Revenue, as being older in the service and receiving 2600 Rs. a month, becomes the Senior Secretary of the united Board; and the Secretary of the Salt Board, as being younger in the service, and receiving 2388 Rs. becomes its Junior Secretary. In the natural order of things, when the senior post becomes vacant, the junior would step into it, but the Junior Secretary is now on what is called

in official jargon, "deputation;" that is, he is employed in investigating the state of the Post Office, with the view to a radical reform of its system. The office which would thus appear to belong to him, not only from his position in the Office, but also from his eminent qualifications, has been given, says the *Calcutta Chronicle*, to another.

With this arrangement, however, we have nothing to do; our business is with the general impression which prevails in the various circles of society, and which we note with much regret, that the vacancy created by Mr. Plowden's removal has given birth to a scene of intrigue, which cannot but reflect the highest discredit on the system which affords room for it. If we are to believe universal and uncontradicted report, the all absorbing topic in the official circles in Calcutta, for some weeks past, has been, Who shall succeed Mr. Plowden? We hear of fifteen, four, five candidates, all possessed of a little circle of influence and partisans, and the fluctuation of their hopes and fears appears to have become the great object of interest. One is said to be backed by this official, another by that; a third enjoys the influence of such or such a personage, and is therefore likely to carry the day. We will not say that the post will be finally given away on the strength of any such interests or influences; but we lament to find that on this and on other occasions which could be named, there should appear to have been such a complication of scheming and jobbery. We do not believe that the Head of the Government is conscious of what is going on around him, and which so deeply involves the credit of his administration; and it is much to be deplored, more especially at a time like the present, when the Government is about to be brought under the scrutiny of the public, that any such scenes should occur to bring into disrepute. From every opportunity we have had of observing the measures both of the Deputy Governor and the Secretary to Government, we feel confident that they are actuated by the sincerest and most conscientious desire to do that which is right; and it is therefore the more lamentable that such obliquity should be brought on the public administration in their days. So important an office as that of the Secretary to a Board which administers a revenue of more than Eight Millions Sterling a year, should not be supposed to be open to these peddling intrigues; it should be bestowed, at once and authoritatively, on the most worthy.

Some gentlemen from the North West Provinces, who have had an opportunity of witnessing these movements in Calcutta, assure us that such things are not only unknown but impossible under the Agra Government. They tell us that the Lieutenant Governor, chiefly from the circumstance of his having been nearly seven years at the head of the administration, is thoroughly acquainted with the character and the qualifications of every civilian on the establishment, and is thus enabled to select the right man for the right place, which he always does, with a magnificent contempt for the claims of seniority when unsupported by merit. Every officer in the North West feels that he is acting under the eye of a discerning and impartial master, and that whatever meritorious exertions he may make, will be duly noticed and appreciated, and in due time rewarded. There is therefore, the most perfect confidence in Mr. Thomason's selections, and the door is effectively barred against all those struggles of interest and influence which are so lamentably visible down here. It is to the differ-



the construction of the two Governments that we attribute this difference in their working. When Sir Wm. Gilbert shall have taken his seat as Deputy Governor of Bengal, three or four months before the expiration of the present Charter, we shall have had *fourteen* Governors in twenty years. Is it therefore surprising that we should look forward with feelings of deep anxiety, for the extension of that system of administration to the province of Bengal, which has been found to answer so admirably in the upper provinces, and by imparting a character of permanence to the Government, shall place its various functionaries in their proper position of control and subordination, and by giving the Head of Government time and opportunity for becoming acquainted with his officers, prevent the possibility both of intrigue and dictation?

**REGISTRATION OF LETTERS.**—The abolition of the system of registering all letters at the various Post Offices, by which the labors of the office establishment have been so materially abridged, is said to have created considerable discontent among the public. The complaint appeared to us to be misplaced, and we supported the discontinuance of the system. A correspondent has written to impugn our opinion, and we give his letter in another column. We feel confident, however, that on a more close consideration of the question, he will come round to our view. The registration of every letter at the various Post Offices is advocated simply because it interposes a check on the suppression of letters, some of which may contain valuable communications. But as the registration is left to the Dawk Moonshee, and there can be no European officer present to secure the entry of every letter, it is evident that the Moonshee, if so disposed, may burke any letter and omit to register it, without the possibility of detection. Hence even the most stringent injunction to register every letter, affords no guarantee that it will be positively despatched. If it be neither sent nor registered, what means has the sender of proving the fraud, except by a reference to the acknowledgment which he himself obtained of the actual receipt of the letter at the office, under the signature of the Moonshee? It is this Receipt—which the Post Office must in every instance be required to give—which forms the real security against the suppression of letters, and it is of itself perfectly sufficient for that purpose. The additional registration in the office occasions a great waste of time, without in any measure increasing the security. The granting of the Receipt will occupy little time. The sender should be required in every instance to copy on a slip of paper, or in his post book, the particulars contained in the direction; and the Moonshee has then only to put down the postage which he has received, affix his own initials, and stamp the receipt with the seal of his office. So long therefore as the Moonshee is required in every instance to grant such a receipt, on the posting of every letter, the non-registration of it in the office can afford him no facility for making away with it.

**THE SPEED OF THE PENINSULAR COMPANY'S VESSELS.**—The Chamber of Commerce has recently published letters to the Board of Control, the Directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, and the East India and China Association, embodying the complaints which have been so generally expressed, at the comparative slowness of the vessels of that Association. A writer under the signature of Z.

has published a reply to this statement, and we have placed his letter among our selections, but as our readers are already in possession of the statements adduced by the Chamber of Commerce, we need not republish them. The *Hulkers* has also done the public good service by compiling, with no little trouble, a very accurate statement of the length of the respective voyages from Southampton to Calcutta, from March 1845 to the present month; and the time occupied by the Bombay Expresses from January 1843 to the same date. We have given the result as regards the Steamers of the Company in the table below:—

	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.	1850.	1851.
January, days	63	45	46	43	47	40	
February,	49	48	43	41	43	39	
March, ...	40	44	44	49	42	41	
April, ...	41	40	41	45	41	39	
May, ...	41	41	43	45	43	39	
June, ...	40	40	42	43	46	38	
July, ...	40	39	43	43	46	38	
August, ...	40	41	40	42	43	39	
September, ...	41	41	42	42	40	38	
October, ...	40	41	42	44	45	37	
November, ...	44	43	41	43	44	38	
December, ...	46	39	40	44	44	38	
Average,	d. 4. 13	d. 4. 10	d. 4. 11	d. 4. 11	d. 4. 11	d. 4. 10	

It will thus be seen that the table drawn up by the *Hulkers* furnishes us with the most valuable information on the subject, and enables us clearly to understand its merits. The letter of Z. is written with great temper and discretion, whereas almost every former remonstrance on the part of the public, has been answered by the Agents of the Peninsular and Oriental Company by a prosecution. We can assure those who are interested in their welfare that this course has done them the greatest injury, while the calm and clear statements of Z. have had a corresponding tendency to do the Company service. It corrects some of the discrepancies into which the Chamber of Commerce had inadvertently fallen, and, although we strongly sympathize with those feelings in which the letter of the Chamber originated, we are bound to confess that the reply relieves the Company from no small portion of the odium which has been gradually increasing against it. Z. shows very clearly that the vessels have performed their voyages within the period stipulated in the contract; and in this respect, the Company must be at once held blameless. But the fact is that since that arrangement was concluded, the progress which has been made in the science of ocean steam navigation is most astonishing. Even the vessels of this Company have accomplished the voyage in four-fifths of the stipulated period, and delivered the mails in Calcutta on the *thirty-sixth* instead of the *thirty-seventh* day, while the vessels which have been recently built by other Companies have attained a still higher degree of speed. Whatever arrangement may be made on the expiration of the present contract, will of course embrace all these considerations, and the present agitation will be found in the highest degree beneficial to the public interests. Z. has very clearly pointed out the superior advantages of the Atlantic line, from the absence of many of those impediments to rapidity of communication which exist on the route from Southampton to Calcutta. The Atlantic vessels have a clear and uninterrupted passage from port to port, while our steamers have numerous places to call at, and are frequently subject to detentions, which are unavoidable. But after every allowance has been made for them, it is manifest that the disappointments which we have so often had to complain of, are to be attributed to the deficiency of power in the steamers. If the period occupied in actual steaming from port to port, was summed up, and divided by the actual number of miles, it would be found that

the ratable speed, has fallen very considerably short of that which Cunard's and the American vessels have attained. On one occasion, we had an opportunity of noticing that the *Hulkers* was 70 hours performing the distance which the *Oriental* performed in 69 hours, between the lower floating light and Madras Roads. The speed of the *Oriental* was at the rate of ten miles an hour; but the new vessels which now cross the Atlantic, would accomplish the distance, at the average rate of 12 miles an hour, in about 55 hours.

The valuable table which the *Hulkers* has published, shows clearly that the Peninsular Company, having secured their contract, went to sleep for four years; and during the years 1848-'47-'48-'49, allowed their vessels to fall off in speed to a most lamentable degree. So utterly indifferent did they become the public interests, that on no fewer than *five* occasions in the year 1848, the mails brought by their steamers did not reach Calcutta till after the London mail had been closed, and we were unable therefore to reply to the letters received, except after the lapse of a fortnight, and at a five fold increase of postage. We desire to acknowledge with grateful feelings that there has been a most gratifying improvement of speed in the last year. The average of the year exhibits a difference of four days and a quarter in its favour over the year of disappointments,—1849,—and on two occasions, the mails reached Calcutta in thirty-six days. This fact shews us what even the present vessels of the Company are capable of doing. The Company may rest assured that with the very large bounty now received from Government, and the vast resources their monopoly gives them, the public will demand, not only that their vessels shall always be worked up to their full speed, but that as little time as possible shall be lost in rendering their steam fleet as efficient as modern improvements can make it.

**CAPT. JOHNSTON.**—Capt. Johnston, who has for so many years held the important post of Comptroller of Government steam vessels, is at length constrained to retire from his appointment to the enjoyment of rest and tranquillity in England. The officers who have so long served under him, have very appropriately determined to mark their gratitude for all his kindness and urbanity by a piece of plate, which they are about to present to him. But he has claims on the gratitude of the public for services performed to the country, which it would be an act of injustice in us to forget, more especially on the occasion of his bidding adieu to India. It is to him that we are indebted for the first steamer between England and India. It was Captain Johnston, who navigated the first steam vessel to the port of Calcutta, in the year 1825, and, perhaps, there may be some among us still, who can remember how strong was the feeling of ecstasy with which the appearance of this vessel among us was hailed, and how completely it seemed to break up that dreary feeling of exile from our native land and its associations, which weighed down the spirits, when the shortest period in which an answer could be received from home to any communication, was eight months. At the present time, when we are impatient if the reply be delayed beyond three months, we can more fully appreciate the services of the individual who, a quarter of a century ago, conveyed the first steamer from the Thames to the Ganges. Subsequently to that event, Captain Johnston was employed by Lord W. Bentinck in ascertaining the feasibility of navigating our











GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

ORDER OF THE HONORABLE THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

**Mr. T. P. Larkins, Assistant to the Magistrate and the Collector of Sylhet, is visited with the small pox, and confined in Section 31, in the 10th Division.**

**2nd January, 1881.**  
Baboo Jaddabchunder Chatterjee, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9, of 1880, has been transferred from the 24-Pergunnas to Burdwan.

Baboo Kalkachunder Dutt, Assistant Superintendent in the 24-Pergunnas, is visited with the small pox, and confined in Section 31, in the 10th Division.

Baboo Jagannath Mondoomoondoo to officiate as Deputy Collector under Regulation 9, of 1880, in the 10th Division.

Baboo Anandachunder Mitter's employment under the Railway Commission is until further orders.

**25th January, 1881.**  
Mr. C. T. Buckland, Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the 24-Pergunnas, to be in charge of the Sub-Division of Serampore in the District of Hooghly.

**27th January, 1881.**  
Mr. R. J. Ward, to be an Assistant to the Superintendent of the 24-Pergunnas Survey, and to exercise the full powers of a Collector under Regulation 7, of 1857 and 6, of 1858, in the Districts of Hooghly, Midnapore, East Burdwan, 24-Pergunnas, Nadia, and Coovera.

Mr. B. Prust, to be an Assistant to the Superintendent of the Hooghly Survey, and to exercise the full powers of a Collector under Regulation 7, of 1857 and 6, of 1858, in the Districts of Purnah, Bhagpore, Dinapore, Bhagpore, Madanghy, Beerthoon, and Mooradabad.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. C. S. Bell, to be an Assistant to the Superintendent of the Patna Survey, during the absence of Mr. C. Chapman, or until further orders. Mr. Bell is visited with the full powers of a Collector under Regulation 7, of 1857 and 6, of 1858, in the Districts of Mymensingh, Bogra, Buxar, Dacca, Faridpore, Sylhet, Tipperah, Buloah, Backergunge, Bhagpore and Chittagong.

**30th January, 1881.**  
Mr. A. C. Simpson, Civil Assistant Surgeon of Suran, to be Registrar of Deeds for that District.

**30th January, 1881.**  
Mr. J. Watson to be an Assistant to the Superintendent of the Hooghly Survey, and to exercise the full powers of a Collector under Regulation 7, of 1857 and 6, of 1858, in the Districts of Hooghly, Beerthoon, East and West Burdwan, Nadia, and Coovera.

**30th January, 1881.**  
Mr. B. H. Cooper, Officiating Magistrate of Rangpore, until the sailing of the February Steamer, in extension of the leave obtained by him under the 14th February last.

**27th January, 1881.**  
Mr. C. Tottenham, Collector of Dacca, for three months, under Section 12, of the 18th March last, or from the date on which he leaves obtained by him under the 4th instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Dr. A. K. Kren, Civil Surgeon of Mooradabad, for three days, on private affairs, from the date on which he may make over charge of the Medical duties of the station to Surgeon Woodcock, or until further orders.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Monsieur Abdoel Hamed, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9, of 1880, attached to the Mymensingh Survey, for one year, on medical certificate, in extension of the leave granted to him in Order of the 14th February last.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. J. Jowett, Civil Assistant Surgeon of Dinapore, for one month, on private affairs, from the date on which he may leave the Station.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. T. P. Martin, Deputy Assistant Surgeon of Benares, for one month, from 20th of March next, or from the date on which he may avail himself of the same, under Section 11, of the Absentee Rules, preparatory to applying for permission to resign the Service.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. W. R. Alexander, Civil and Sessions Judge of Bhagpore, for two years, on medical certificate, to proceed to the 10th Division.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. G. G. Dalmon, Assistant Magistrate of Hooghly, for one month, under Section 11, of the Absentee Rules, from the date on which he may leave the Station, to the 10th Division.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Monsieur Reynold Alby, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9, of 1880, in the 10th Division, on private affairs.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. E. N. Paragachand, received charge of the titles of Civil and Sessions Judge of West Burdwan from the late Chief Commissioner Charles Macleod.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. E. B. Marshall, Assistant Magistrate of West Burdwan, received charge of the Treasury from Baboo Thakurachand Ghose, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9, of 1880, on the 27th.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. A. Davidson, Principal Sudder Ameer of Midnapore, having received charge of the duties of the Station, the management of the investigation of the case on the 21st has been terminated.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. A. P. Vigne, Deputy Collector of Midnapore, received charge of his Office from Mr. S. Davidson, on the 21st instant.

received charge of the Treasury of the District from Mr. F. C. Forth on the 18th instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. G. T. Yoh, Collector of Dinapore, made over charge of his Office and the Treasury to Mr. E. G. Birch on the 25th instant, preparatory to proceeding into the Interior on public duty.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Lieutenant H. Dixon, Commanding the Path Companies at Benares, resumed charge of his duties on the 25th instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. H. F. James received charge of the Office of the Civil and Sessions Judge of Benares on the 24th instant, from which date the remaining portion of the leave of absence granted to him in Order of the 20th November last, is terminated.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. G. Loch, Collector of Bhagpore, resumed charge of his Office from Mr. G. L. Martin on the 25th instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. T. Bruce, Civil and Sessions Judge of Tipperah, made over charge of the current duties of his Office to Monsieur Mahomed Ali, Principal Sudder Ameer of the District, on the 25th instant, to proceed on circuit duty.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. T. Wyse, Civil and Sessions Judge of Rangpore, resumed charge of his Office from Royal Ahumud Bux, Principal Sudder Ameer of the District, on the 25th instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. G. A. Pepper made over charge of the Sub-Division of Nungpore, to West Burdwan, to Mr. A. W. Russell on the 25th instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. A. Grove, Officiating Collector of the 24-Pergunnas, made over charge of his Office to Baboo Subchunder Deb, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9, of 1880, and resumed charge of it on the 25th instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
The Rev. H. R. Shepherd, Chaplain of Dacca, reported to return to the Presidency from Ceylon on the 1st instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. G. Loch, Collector of Bhagpore, received charge of the Office of Superintendent of Survey from Mr. H. M. Shore on the 25th instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. K. L. Lloyd, of the Civil Service, reported his departure for Aden on the ship "Africa" which was left by the Fleet at Ben on the 21st instant.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. F. P. Dwyer, Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. J. G. Campbell this day resumed charge of the Office of Superintendent of Survey from Mr. J. S. Torrance.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. J. A. Donist, Secy. to the Govt. of India.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. J. Van Aken, Assistant to the Magistrate and Collector of Jounpore, for two days, under Section 12, of the Absentee Rules, in extension of the leave granted to him in Order of the 14th November 1880.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Lieutenant-Governor's Card, 20th January, 1881.

The leave of absence for one month, under Section 25, of the Absentee Rules, granted by the Commissionary, acting for the Board of Directors, to the Rev. J. Shepherd, Chaplain of Lucknow, is confirmed.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Captain T. Richardson, Joint Magistrate of Cawnpore, for thirteen days, on private affairs, from the date on which he may avail himself of the same, under Section 11, of the Absentee Rules.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. J. A. Donist, Secy. to the Govt. of India.

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**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. W. P. Mason to be Magistrate and Collector of Allahabad, to continue to officiate as Judge at Gorakhpore, till Mr. Woodcock resumes further orders.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Doobay Jaddabchunder, Additional Principal Sudder Ameer of Allahabad, to officiate as Principal Sudder Ameer at that Station.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Tajmohd Hossain, Munsiff of the Suburb of Mooradabad, to officiate as Sudder Ameer of Ainsurgh.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Ramasundar Doss, Sub-Assistant Surgeon of Dacca, for two months, in extension of the leave granted to him in Order of the 30th April last.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. J. Butlerian, Assistant Surgeon of Dacca, for one month, on private affairs, from the date on which he may avail himself of the leave.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. J. H. Mackillop, Assistant to the Magistrate and Collector of Mooradabad, for one month, under Section 11, of the Absentee Rules, from the date on which he may avail himself of the leave.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. G. O. Hillebrand, Officiating Collector and Magistrate of Benares, for six months, on medical certificate, to visit the Hills North of Dehra, under Section 6, of the Absentee Rules, from the date of his making over charge of his duties.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. H. B. Boulton, Senior Member of the Sudder Board of Benares, W. P. for one year, on medical certificate, to visit the Hills.

**28th January, 1881.**  
The leave of absence for one month, granted by the Commissionary, acting for the Board of Directors, to the Rev. G. W. Colburn, is confirmed.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Mr. G. S. Benson, Assistant to the Magistrate and Collector of Allahabad, is visited with the powers of a Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector under Section 25, of the Absentee Rules, in extension of the leave granted to him in Order of the 14th November 1880.

**28th January, 1881.**  
Synd Ahmad Khan, Munsiff of Delhi, is promoted to the 1st Grade of Munsiffs, viz. Tujmohd Hossain Khan, promoted.

**28th January, 1881.**  
J. THOMPSON, Secy. to Govt. N. W. P.

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P. and O. S. N. Co's. Office,  
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One Drawing by the Officer of the 21st, representing Her  
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THE INFANTRY ATTACK  
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THE CHARGE OF THE SIXTEENTH LANCERS  
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**AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.**

**CALCUTTA AGENCY.**  
**THE** Calcutta branch of the Agra and United Service

**CALCUTTA AGENCY.**  
THE Calcutta branch of the Agra and United Service Bank, in addition to ordinary Banking business, transacts all business on the security of approved Securities and Life Insurance, makes advances on the security of Bonds and deposits of Government Paper, Shares in the Bank of Bengal, and other approved assignable Joint Stock Certificates.  
The Agency in all its branches including sale and purchase of Government Securities, and Joint Stock, issues the receipt of interest and dividends thereon, transmitted by the Calcutta Agent: who is also empowered by the Directors to draw on the Bank's London Agent, Capt. R. H. MacGregor, 18 Old Jerry Chambers, as follows:—

	EXCHANGE.	s.	d.	
Six months' sight,	...	2	1	per Co.'s Rupee
Four " "	...	2	0	"
Ninety days' "	...	2	0	"
Sixty " "	...	2	0	"
Thirty " "	...	2	0	"

At sight, " " " " 2 0/11  
If required by parties proceeding to Europe Overland  
the Bank will grant letters of credit on their Agent's  
sums under £200 sterling, which will be negotiated by

their correspondents at the following places, viz. at Alexandria and Cairo, by Messrs. Briggs and Co.; at Malta by Messrs. Bell and Co.; at Trieste, by Messrs. Falkner and Co.; at Paris, by Monsieur Ferrere Lafitte.

No commission is charged on current accounts opened with the London Agent and interest at the rate of 3 per

On sums deposited for 6 months' certain, subject to nine

On ditto, for ditto, subject to 60 days' notice, (open to all,) at 4 per cent. per annum.

The funds of all public bodies connected with the service, and of such other Societies as the Directors may

views, and in such other Societies as the Directors may consider eligible for the same privilege, will be received by the Bank, at its highest rate of interest for the time being subject to modified conditions.

The Bank reserves to itself the right of paying off all its

To meet the wishes of parties absent in Europe, the Bank undertakes to remit, at the actual exchange of the day,

the sale proceeds of shares, the amount of dividends (as regularly declared), the interest on deposit accounts, the principal of all deposits fixed and floating, and generally to transact all such business for the classes before named without charge.

No. 5, Wellesley Place,  
Calcutta, Nov. 7, 1859.

**AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.**  
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BANKING AND INVESTMENT. CAPITAL, 10 LAKHS OF RUPEES.

Capital, Co.'s Rs. 67,77,500 (say 67 7/8 lakhs) in 13, Shares of Rs. 100 each 677,750.

**All paid up, in the hands of upwards of 408 Proprietors**  
**Reserved Fund, Co.'s Rs. 8,62,129. 10 (say 235,914).**  
**London Agency, 15, Old Jewry, City.**  
*Local Committee.*

Major-General D. McLeod, *Chairman* (Bengal Engineer  
Major H. Doveton,—Major J. H. MacDonald,—*do.*  
Macpherson, Esq.,—Major Wm. Turner, and Major H.  
Henderson.

The following Classes of Business are transacted by the Agent :—

1. Current Accounts opened with Individuals and Firms, and Money Agency of every description transacted.

2. Interest at 2 per cent. per annum is allowed on Current or Floating accounts, when the monthly minimum balance at credit is not less than £100: broken periods the month of lodgment and withdrawal being omitted.

4. No Commission is charged on Home Current and Deposit Accounts, except where the monthly minimum is

balance at credit is not more than £50, when half per cent commission is charged on all sums on the debtor side of the account.

5. Sales and Purchases effected in British and Foreign

6. Army, Navy, and Civil Pay and Pensions realized at the India House, &c., free of Commission, except what may be chargeable under Rule 4 as above.

Further particulars can be ascertained on application to the Agent, and a list of Proprietors and the Directors is sent on request.

By order of the Committee,  
7th May, 1850. R. G. MacGibbon, Agent.

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The Agency also buys approved Bills drawn against funds, or upon parties, in *India*; and sends out for Cl

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# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

No. 942. VOL. XVII.]

SINGAPORE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1851.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND C. CO.'S STEAMER "ORIENTAL," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that in the Mails for Rome, and the Intermediate Ports, (Malaga, Caylon, Aden, Yessing, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission to the Eastern and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Oriental*, will be closed at this Office, on Friday, the 21st Proximo, and that all after packets will be despatched hence on Saturday, the 22d Inst., with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Malaga, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Oriental* can be received after 5 p.m. of that date.

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J. R. BUCKLEY SECRETARY.  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, 17th February, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donations:—

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OVERLAND SUMMARY.—The Mail of the 7th January arrived in Calcutta on Wednesday the 12th instant, after an unusually rapid passage of Thirty-six days, and although the greater part of the intelligence at the latter place was doubtless been in the hands of most of our readers for some days, we proceed to give our usual Summary. The agitation against the Papal aggression, though it cannot be said to have in any great degree subsided, has become more calm, in the hope of a decisive demonstration on the part of the Ministry when Parliament meets, which will be on the 4th of February. A great number of meetings have been held, and numerous addresses presented to the throne, almost all of which contained clauses strongly condemnatory of Puseyism, as well as of Popery, but the general interest of the question, for the present, centers in the demonstration of feeling by the Roman Catholics themselves. The *Daily News* selects from a multitude of similar documents, a petition signed by a number of English Catholic priests to the Propaganda at Rome, praying that the hierarchy may not be established unless the institutional parish priests be simultaneously restored, as it throws no absolute a power into the hands of the Bishops. A considerable proportion of the Catholicity have also remonstrated against the measure, which they consider to have been adopted solely to gratify Cardinal Wiseman's desire of personal aggrandizement; and out of fourteen Catholic nobles, only seven signed the address of congratulation to the pseudo-Archbishop of Westminster. Among these was the Earl of Shrewsbury, as we mentioned last week, but the Catholic members of the Lower House are either hostile to the innovation, or afraid to commit themselves, as only one of their number, Mr. Howard, attached his signature to that document. Lord Alington, the head of the Storer family, one of the oldest peers in England, and a Roman Catholic adherent to the party of Lord Beaumont and the Duke

of Norfolk, and refuses to congratulate the Archbishop upon a measure which has disturbed the peace of the whole realm, and produced "a wide spread, and he fears—to the Roman Catholic body—lasting mischief." Lord Beaumont, the first Roman Catholic who remained Cardinal Wiseman's pretensions, has, it is said, been excommunicated. Meanwhile, the number of converts to Romanism increases. Mr. Leigh Bellasis, the Rev. Mr. Laprimaudays, and the Rev. Mr. Dodsworth are said to have embraced that creed, and it is rumoured that Mr. Bennett will shortly follow their example. The discussion between that gentleman and his Bishop has not as yet terminated, and his parishioners have expressed a desire to retain their beloved ceremonies, in a form mutilated to suit the ideas of the "was-canile prelate." In America, also, an anti-papal agitation has been excited by the absurd vaunt of Archbishop Hughes, that the Roman Catholic faith was supreme in the United States. The question has been taken up with spirit, and it has been proved by figures, that the number of Anglo-Saxon Catholics in America is infinitesimally small, and that the numerical strength of that creed, arises solely from the influx of Irish labourers, some of whom have raised pretensions to wealth and distinction. The effect of this truth will be easily understood, when it is known that within the last ten years Three millions of English subjects have found employment in America, and that the great majority of these are Irishmen. The domestic news of the fortnight is very considerable, unless we believe—as personally we do—the rumours of a break-up of the Cabinet. The Crystal palace is nearly completed, and the total area of the building is estimated at 33,000,000 cubic feet. Mr. Owen Jones has suggested a plan for the colouring of the glass house, which cannot be better described than in the words of an old woman who went into a shop to buy a shawl, and said to the shopman, "none of your gaudy colours for me. I'm all for plain red and yellow." The Railway traffic appears to be largely on the increase, and the new system of cheap fares is rapidly spreading through all the great lines, to the benefit alike of the shareholders and the public. The dispute between the engine drivers and the Directors of the North Western Railway, concerning the length of notice to be given by the former before quitting their employ, has terminated to the advantage of the Directors. The whole of the public press supported their determination, and the engine drivers were offered the alternative of submission, or a summary dismissal.

In France a "ministerial crisis" has arrived, and the President of the Republic has once more been placed in direct opposition to the will of the Assembly. The chief cause of this contretemps was the arrest of a Deputy of the Assembly for debt. The Assembly declared that their privilege of inviolability extended to arrests for debt, and peremptorily ordered the release of M. Mangin, the unlucky debtor. Here the matter might have ended, but the order of the Assembly for the release of M. Mangin was a direct assumption of executive powers, and they had also directed their own President, to call out the troops, if necessary. But on Friday, the 2nd January, M. Napoleon Bonaparte, a Deputy, brought

forward an old order by the Minister of War, forbidding the troops to move at the requisition of the Assembly. The Assembly, with General Changarnier at their head, were furious at what they deemed an invasion of their rights, and demanded an instant enquiry. The Ministers immediately resigned in a body, and at the date of our latest intelligence France was without a responsible Government. It is stated, we perceive, in the Paris correspondence of the Calcutta journals, that the President of the Republic has resolved to dismiss General Changarnier, which would at once place him in a position of direct hostility to the Assembly.

The German powers are actively engaged in carrying out their design of settling the affairs of Central Europe by Congress, and the Free Conference at Dresden has commenced its sittings. Prince Schwartzberg is the delegate for Austria, and Count Manteuffel for Prussia, but nothing of importance has yet been done or spoken. The Schleswig-Holstein question may, however, be regarded as settled, and those provinces will be again placed under the authority of Denmark.

The intelligence from the United States is of little importance. The Anti-slavery agitation has died away, and the Federal Government has sent a strong detachment of troops into the State of South Carolina, obviously to resist any overt attempt on the part of that State to disavow the Union. The accounts of the ravages of the Cholera in Jamaica are frightful. The severity of the disease in that colony has been far greater than we have ever experienced in India. It is said that in many districts a clear fourth of the inhabitants have been swept away by this pestilence, and that the town of Kingston alone has lost 6000 people. To lend additional horror to these reports, it is positively asserted that the whole police force of one district has been allowed to perish of starvation, owing to an accident which kept back their pay. The story has been promulgated in the local papers, and remains uncontested, but we cannot bring ourselves to believe in its correctness, because the police, in the last resort, long before they were reduced to a state of actual starvation, would of course have obtained provisions by force. Several Surgeons, deeply experienced in sanitary science, particularly with reference to cholera, have left England for Jamaica, and large sums have been voted in the island itself for the relief of the sufferers. The cholera has also attacked Sacramento in California, but the details probably refer to the mortality among the emigrants, of which we have already had accounts.

Nothing of Indian interest has occurred in the fortnight, except the expected retirement of Mr. Lyall from the Direction. His successor will probably be Mr. Marjoribanks. The prospects of the steam routes between England, India and Australia, we have alluded to in another column.

THE FINANCIALS OF INDIA AND THE "DAILY NEWS".—The *Daily News* has published a reply to the article which appeared in this journal on the *Finances of India* in September last, which will be found among our Europe Extracts. We desire to assure the Editor that we duly appreciate the honor he has conferred

on us by this notice of our lucubrations, though we fear we are in a great measure indebted for it to the error into which he has been led, of ascribing them to an official origin. He considers this journal as the mouth piece of the Government of India, and asserts that we have been furnished with figures from the Treasury, and have been instructed by its financial position. This assertion has not the smallest foundation in truth. The Indian Government is as innocent of any connection with that, or any other, article in this journal as the Grand Lama. We wrote from our own individual impulse, and with no other aid than what we derived from printed and published documents which are within the reach of all our contemporaries. To prevent any future misapprehension of the same nature, we may as well take the present opportunity of stating that the period has at length arrived, for which we have been preparing ourselves for the last sixteen years. The *Friend of India* was established within eight months after the present character came into operation, and with an especial view to the arrangements which might be made on its termination. During this period we have laid ourselves out for the collection of all those facts and opinions, which might prove useful in the discussions of the fourth estate, at the period which has now come round. We have allowed no opportunity to escape us of obtaining the most accurate information regarding the nature, the operation, and the results of the institutions established for the Government of British India. We have ransacked every book store in England and India for works relating to this country, and have diligently collected every statistical document that could be obtained for love and money; and we shall address ourselves steadily to the discussion of all those topics which bear upon the improvement and welfare of India, without the smallest reservation. We mention this circumstance, not because we attach the slightest importance to our own opinions, which we desire to put forth with becoming diffidence, but to prepare our readers for any of the discussions we may feel it our duty from time to time to inflict on them.

The *Daily News* professes his observations on the Finances of India with some allusions to the history and the character of this journal, with the undissembled view of weakening the value of its statements. As we hope to enjoy many opportunities of discussing Indian questions with our London contemporary, during the next three years, perhaps it may be advantageous to set him right at once on the matter of our editorial birth, parentage, and education; and we have so much confidence in his candour and impartiality, as to believe that he will feel grateful for our efforts to illuminate him. His information on this subject is, of course, derived from parties in this country, to whom our views on public questions are unpalatable, and he will therefore not be surprised to find that it has been seriously misled. The *Friend of India* was not "started at a time when freedom of the Press, and something more valuable; viz. liberty to carry Christianity to India was prohibited in our oriental territories." It was in 1818 that Missionaries for the first time obtained free access to India, by the decision of Parliament, in the teeth of the Court of Directors, and this journal was not started before 1835. For seven years, moreover, before its commencement, we had enjoyed the most unbounded liberty of the Press at this Presidency, under the enlightened administration of Lord William Bentinck. The legal establish-

ment of this liberty by Sir Charles Metcalfe, in 1838, was only the natural consequence of the practical freedom we had enjoyed since July, 1823. Neither did the journal originate with "some leading members, and, it may almost be added, martyrs of the Baptist Mission, that found refuge at Serampore." Two out of the three illustrious men who were the Missionary pioneers at this Presidency, had already been removed from their labors to their rest, and the last of the band was sinking under the weight of years and disappointments and anxieties, when this journal was started. As to its assumed connection with the Government of India, it may perhaps be sufficient simply to repeat the assurance which we have so often given, that this is a malevolent and gratuitous slander, and that it is never brought forward except when our arguments appear otherwise unmanageable. We have no more editorial connection with the Government of India than the *Daily News* has with the India Board, nor have any of the individual members of this Government any further influence over its writings, than what may arise from the value which the Editor has been led, from long intercourse and experience, to place on their opinions.

When the *Daily News* charges us with justifying every successive war of aggression and conquest, he only compromises the moral character of the London Press, by shewing upon how slender a knowledge of the opinions of a distant contemporary, a London Editor considers it equitable to denounce them. If he has ever looked into our columns, he will find that we have carefully abstained from offering, not only any justification of the conquest of Scinde, but any opinion on the subject. It became at a very early period, a party question, of intense virulence, and was discussed in a spirit of irreconcilable antagonism. The parties engaged, in the discussion, on both sides, completely lost their temper, and as we were very anxious to avoid the contagion of their example, we determined to leave the morality of the conquest to the decision of the future historian. As to the war in the Punjab, it was most unquestionably, as the *Daily News* observes "a war of aggression and conquest," but the aggression came from the Sikhs, who poured a tide of barbarous invasion on our provinces, without any provocation except from their own greed of plunder and conquest. The fault of Lord Hardinge lay in his protracted quiescence. When he left Barrackpore, on the 6th of October, not seventy days before Sixty thousand Sikhs crossed the Sutledge and burst upon our territories, he vowed that he would not go to war with the Punjab, and he delayed the assembling of troops, even after the intentions of the enemy were unequivocally manifested, to a degree which earned for us the praise of moderation, but had well nigh proved fatal to our interests.

As to the "morality of that policy which has disregarded the rights of Hindu succession," which the *Daily News* charges us with insisting on, we boldly and unhesitatingly avow our most cordial concurrence in it. We believe the policy which the Indian authorities at home have at length been led to adopt, of refusing to recognize the right of adoption among the tributary and subordinate Princes of India, to be wise, judicious and beneficent. Though we are said to govern an empire which stretches from Peshawar to Galle, and are subjected to all the odium of having conquered it, yet we are but partially the rulers of India. We still continue to allow the existence of between two and three hundred princes who hold sovereignty in their respective territories, and the

continuity of our government is on every side interrupted by independent principalities. All these would lapse in the course of time to the paramount power, on the death of the incumbent without heirs, but for the right of adoption which they claim, and have hitherto been allowed to exercise; and as long as we are considered bound to admit the validity of the claim, there could be no hope of their extinction. We believe that by the original constitution of the empire of India, to the rights and privileges of which we have succeeded, no such succession to political power and functions can be deemed conclusive, without the express permission of the ruling authority in the empire. We believe it is for the general benefit of the country at large that these independencies should cease, and that the territories which they comprise should merge in the British dominions, whenever an honest and honorable opportunity is presented for their absorption, by the failure of the line of male heirs. We consider it desirable that the entire responsibility of the administration of the whole of India, should be gradually concentrated in the hands of the British Government, and that while the Native princes and nobles retain their social dignity, and titles, and landed possessions, they should be entirely divested of all territorial dignities, or political power. We prefer France as it was in the Eighteenth century, to France under Louis the Eleventh. We desire that the sovereignty of a Duke of Brittany and a Duke of Burgundy should merge in the sovereignty of the Crown, and that the throne of India should be surrounded only by nobles who enjoy simply the rank of subjects. We support this policy, because we believe it will be equally auspicious for our own Government and for the people. We consider that in adopting it Great Britain is only fulfilling her destiny in the East, and we look forward, therefore, with unmingled satisfaction to the approach of that period when the whole of India shall be united under one sovereignty, endowed with the same enlightened institutions, and covered with a complete reticulation of Railways.

We shall resume and complete our notice of the *Daily News* next week.

**POST OFFICE REFORMS.**—The *Englishman* stated a day or two ago that the Post Office Commissioners now assembled in Calcutta, have been directed to proceed to the North West, and submit their Report in person to the Governor General. We have every reason to believe that the rumour is unfounded. It is true that at a personal conference, all the information which has been collected can be examined, and the measures of improvement which it has suggested can be discussed, to the highest advantage. But if the Report be complete in itself, there can be no need of any such explanations, and Lord Dalhousie will only require to consult the Financial Secretary, and to obtain the opinion of the Members of Council. We most sincerely hope that the Council will be able to come to an immediate decision, without any reference to the Home Authorities. Indeed, it is naturally to be inferred that Lord Dalhousie is sufficiently in possession of the views of the Court, on this subject, to be enabled to act without any further procrastination. The Court doubtless communicated their instructions to the local Authorities, when the crude and indigested proposal regarding Postal reforms was sent home some years back. Should the present scheme, however, involve rather a greater pecuniary sacrifice than its predecessor, there is no reason to apprehend any expression of the Court's

displeasure. On the contrary, when we consider, on the one hand, the great popularity which it will bring to their administration, at a time when that popularity is of inestimable value, and on the other, the advantages which it will confer on the country, we may safely calculate on their cordial approbation. When the Penny Post was first established in England, her Majesty's Ministers risked an annual revenue of more than a Million Sterling, and they have been nobly supported in this bold and hazardous reformation by the applause of the country. The introduction of a kindred measure in India will not involve the risk of more than one-twentieth of this sum, and the Court of Directors may be confident that it will meet with the same cordial commendation from all those whose opinion can be of any value to them. Nor should it be forgotten that the Government of England has deemed the establishment of facilities for correspondence with the distant dependencies of the Crown a matter of such paramount importance, that the amount paid for the contract is totally irrespective of the contributions obtained from the postage of letters. When the return obtained from the Mails does not cover the expense of conveying them by steam, the balance is at once carried to the national debt. If England with a revenue of 52 Millions Sterling and a debt of 800 Millions can afford to adopt this principle, certainly India, with a revenue of scarcely less than half that amount, and a debt of only 50 Millions, can bear the application of the same principle. It would be passing strange if, while the conveyance of the Mails to this country costs £100,000 a year, at the least, more than the postage of the letters they contain, the local Government should hesitate at postal improvements which do not require an expenditure of half that amount. Besides, if the improvement in our Post Office should entail an actual and irrecoverable deficiency of three or four lakhs of Rupees, that sum may be considered as a very cheap contribution for the conveyance of the public correspondence which is now sent free.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER has now quitted the shores of India for ever, and his administration is become matter of history. Notwithstanding his apothecia at the farewell entertainment given him by the leading members of society at Bombay, his sun has set under a cloud, from which there is no hope of its ever emerging. Every one yields a willing tribute to his great generalship, and to the gallantry and spirit which he has so eminently displayed in the field, but he appears unfortunately to have imbibed the idea that these military virtues give him a full discharge from all those social, moral, and political obligations which belong to the high station he recently occupied. While practising the most scrupulous obedience to his own orders as Commander-in-Chief, he has exhibited the most glaring insubordination to the constitutional authority of the Government of India, and the last six or eight months of his career in this country have been passed in a series of the most unwarrantable and undignified disputes with the Governor General, in which the temper and magnanimity of the one have formed a singular contrast to the folly and fury of the other. Contrary to all official etiquette and propriety, he has been applying the most offensive epithets to the head of the Government, at the various entertainments which have been given to him by its servants. But the abuse which he has omitted no opportunity of heaping on Lord Dalhousie, when

his Lordship was not present to meet it, has only served to demonstrate his unfitness for the responsibilities of the station he has now quitted, and to render his departure a matter of congratulation rather than of regret.

On landing at Bombay, he gave vent to the bitterness of his feelings towards the press, to which he was a ready contributor while it continued to belaud him. He was met by a guard of honor from the 78th Highlanders, and the sight of that corps at once revived those emotions of rage which had filled his bosom, seven years before, when the mortality which decimated it was attributed to its having been ordered by Sir Charles Napier to march to Sukkur, at the most unhealthy season of the year. He ordered the band to stop, and approaching the men, told them that the assertion was an infamous lie. Then, throwing his hands together with a most expressive gesture, he said, "it was an infamous—a damnable—a worse than damnable lie." Yet it was no lie at all, but the plain truth. The men were marched from Kurrachee to Sukkur at the most sickly season of the year, in September and October; they *did* die in consequence by the dozen. But, supposing the assertion that they had thus been marched by his orders, to have been unfounded, was this language for the lips of a gentleman or a soldier? What regard could he have had for his own character and reputation, when in the presence of men and officers, on the public parade ground, he could thus demean himself by swearing as grossly as any Billingsgate fish wife. Then, again, in the speech which he delivered at the Bombay dinner, after the glorification he had received from Sir W. Yardley, which was perhaps the most sober he uttered during his tour, he said that he had often wished for a good broomstick and to have been with in three yards of Dr. Buist. This allusion to the broomstick reminds us of an anecdote which was current, when Sir Charles arrived here to assume the office of Commander-in-Chief. While sitting on the deck of the steamer one day, he exclaimed that he had met with a very great misfortune in Egypt. He had bought a thick stick, when in London, to beat that beast \*\*\*\*\* whenever he should meet him, but in coming through Egypt it was lost in the desert. — who was standing by, and always addressed him with great familiarity, said, "Have you ever seen \*\*\*\*\*? He is a large man, Sir Charles, a large man." "I don't care a straw for it," replied His Excellency—we use the mildest form of expression. "I'll get another stick in Calcutta." The stick has now, it seems, been exchanged for a broomstick, doubtless under the idea that the meanness of the instrument will enhance the indignity of the infliction. But what wretched stuff is this for one who has just laid down the baton of Commander-in-Chief, to utter in the presence of all that was dignified and gentlemanly at Bombay? Is this the legacy of wisdom, temperance, and magnanimity which he bequeaths to our keeping? Are the expressions to which he gave utterance, at Kurrachee, or when addressing the Highlanders, or at the dinner, such as any man would desire to be permanently associated with his name, in the empire in which he held the second post? It is said that Sir Charles will resort to the Press as soon as he reaches England, and denounce the Government of India, and the treatment he complains of having received. Let him beware how he provokes the publication of his correspondence with Lord Dalhousie, and the reprint of the speeches we have now alluded to. The wisest plan he can now pursue is, to retire at once to the privacy

of domestic life, and allow time for his extravagancies to be forgotten.

MR. ARRAHTHOOT.—As we believe that this case, insignificant as it appears, may ultimately, like Dhuleep Singh's beefsteak, prove of some importance, and that the gentleman chiefly interested has been, on the whole, unjustly treated, we give our readers an opportunity of judging for themselves of its merits by a short reference to the facts. Mr. Arrathoot is an Armenian gentleman, who has been separated from his wife, to whom, moreover, through an unsatisfied decree of the Supreme Court, he is a considerable debtor. Mrs. Arrathoot, after the suit had terminated in her favour, remained some time in Calcutta, and then went to Dacca, where she continues to reside. Her husband, after formally advertising that he was not responsible for any debts his wife might contract, removed to Chandernagore, as a cheap place of residence. Mrs. Arrathoot, it appears, had obtained credit of various tradesmen in Calcutta to a considerable amount, and she had in particular a bill with Messrs. Shearwood and Co. for Rs. 3,000, with Messrs. Wallis and Co., the tailors, for Rs. 818—a very odd item even if the lady *did* wear the breeches—and with Mr. Scott, for Rs. 1804. All these parties, it appears, either unaware of Mr. Arrathoot's advertisement, or regardless of it, considered that gentleman responsible for the amount of his wife's debts, but as he did not take the same view of the matter, he declined placing himself in their hands by coming within British jurisdiction. On the morning of the 7th of February, however, while walking on the strand at Chandernagore, he was seized, and forcibly placed in a boat, and taken down the river. Somewhere near Pultah Ghaut he was met by another boat, in which was Mr. Thornton, the bailiff, who arrested him on a writ of *Messrs. Shearwood and Co.* After his arrival in Calcutta, three other writs were shown him, and he was told that he was arrested under these writs also. The story of the decoy lady, which has excited so much amusement in Calcutta, appears to be quite gratuitous. This narrative tallies exactly with that made by Mr. Thornton, the Bailiff, except that that official had previously been told that he might, if he kept a good look out, catch Mr. Arrathoot in a boat with a lady, and had been hailed when at Pultah Ghaut by Mr. Arrathoot's actual captors. At the examination of the case before the Chief Justice on Wednesday, the 12th instant, his Lordship said that the charge of violence had not been fairly met, and he must have further evidence on that subject. He, moreover, considered that there was a great difficulty in deciding as to whether the writs held in favour of the other creditors, who were in no way privy to the alleged act of violence, ought not to be carried into execution. The drift of that legal sentence is, that Mr. Arrathoot, after being released on Mr. Shearwood's writ on the ground of illegal arrest, may be seized at the Court door, on the other writs. We think that the justice of this proceeding is exceedingly doubtful. It may be argued with reference to the original arrest, that the seizure of Mr. Arrathoot, having been effected by a stranger, was simply a common assault, and could not invalidate the subsequent arrest on British writs by the Bailiff, as Mr. Arrathoot has his action at law against his assaulter. But in that case the privileges of a foreign territory become absolutely void, because in the peculiar circumstances of Chandernagore, three or four men may at any time seize a debtor, hurry him into a boat,

and make their escape, while the Bailiff arrests his prisoner. If, on the other hand, the arrest on French territory in any mode, without the permission of the French authorities, be illegal, then Mr. Arrathoon ought to be replaced at Chandernagore in exactly the same situation in which he stood before his arrest.

Since this was written, the Supreme Court has pronounced its decision on the case. Mr. Arrathoon's arrest is held to have been illegal as regards all the writs at that time in the hands of the Sheriff, but he is to be detained on a writ subsequently lodged against him at the suit of Mr. Seton. This decision gives additional force to the observations we have made above, and we do not hesitate to say that the course adopted by the Supreme Court, however accurate it may be, according to English law, is a decided violation of the law of nations. If such a judgment is to hold good, any person may be illegally seized on foreign territory, and then kept in arrest on the strength of writs held by parties other than his actual captors. The inviolability of a foreign and independent territory is thus completely destroyed. The French Government, we are convinced, will look upon the matter in this light, and without any regard to the technicalities of English law, and every hour Mr. Arrathoon passes in prison, after it has been decided that his arrest was illegal, will increase the difficulty of an amicable settlement of the affair; and small thanks, indeed, will Lord Palmerston owe to the Judges of the Supreme Court, for involving him in a delicate and difficult discussion with the ministers of a republic so jealous of its national honor as that of France.

IN OUR REMARKS ON THE OPIUM CASE, the *Harkers* has misunderstood us. We not only contended that the act of the party in purchasing the Opium for the purpose of winning his wager was illegal, but that the act itself was a fraud, so gross as to destroy all right of the Plaintiff to recover on the contract entered into. The *Harkers* remarks that it was argued before the Privy Council, and in the Supreme Court here, that such a proceeding was illegal, observing that such an argument was surely untenable, and demanding what law is there against any man buying any quantity of Opium at any rate, he pleases? We will venture to tell our contemporary that it is the implied obligation which arises on all gaming contracts, that neither party shall cheat. The parties betting stipulate for the result of chance, though not for the acts of the public. Admitting the rights of the parties who bet to *bid at all*, there is a manifest distinction between the use and the abuse of a privilege. The *Harkers* puts this matter very fairly, when he states, "the question is, did the parties contemplate the mode of winning the wager to which the winners resorted? If they did not, there was certainly some good ground for contending that such a mode of winning was a sort of fraud on the opposite party. If, on the other hand, it was contemplated, we cannot understand how it can be complained of—unless there be something inherently illegal or immoral in the act itself." Before we make any further remarks on the observations of our contemporary, it may be as well to state to our readers, what the nature of the contract was in the case which came before the Supreme Court at Calcutta. The action was brought by Ramall on two written contracts, which are nearly similar in terms, that we will not trouble our readers to peruse more than one, as the remarks we have to make are equally applicable to both.

The following is the official translation of one of the two contracts:—"To Subjanyam Ramall. This is written by Sootsach Choytan Doss with salutations which they will perse. Further we have sold unto you the average of eight lots of 40 Pattees or chests of Patna Opium of the first nalam or public sale, at the price of (1850) thirteen hundred and eighty, whatever happens to be the average thereof at the first nalam, or public sale of the Patna per Pattee or chest, agreeably to that price, the fall or rise will be given or taken. The earnest of 8 Company's Rupees of yours have reached us, for which we will allow credit."

Sumbut 1908. Magur or Ughun, the 10th day of the dark side of the moon.

Signature of Bottonchund,

Written on the back.

Subjanyam Ramall.

Such being the written contract between the parties from which alone we are entitled to collect their intention. Is there any thing contained in it which entitles either party to win the wager by any means, or, in other words, to cheat his adversary? The common gambler who plays with loaded dice, gives a chance to his opponent, because, though such dice will commonly win, they are not uniformly successful. Here, however, the Plaintiff arranges beforehand, to leave no possibility of winning to the other party. We stated in our former article that the present case could not be distinguished from the case put by Mr. Justice Yardley, and assented to by Mr. Baron Parke, and the illustration put was this—"If A. bets B. that a particular horse will fetch a particular sum at auction, can A. win the bet by attending and bidding that very sum?" Our contemporary agrees that such an act could not be done, and gives the true reason because such a proceeding is clearly *barred by implication*.

Now our contemporary has not shown in what respect the case before the Supreme Court here, and the case just put differ. In both cases the party arranges to win his wager by bidding an amount sufficient to secure his winning, whether there was one horse or five hundred horses—or one chest or five hundred chests of Opium—the object in view, and the result, are the same in each, and the principle which bars by implication such a proceeding in the one case, is truly and fully applicable to the other. But suppose there had been even an express agreement that each party should be at liberty to cheat—could such an agreement be supported in a Court of justice? We would call the attention of the reader to the identical case put by the great lawyer, whose authority we quoted in our former article.

"Quand même celui contre qui j'ai joué aurait eu un contrat de transporter sur moi son argent, je n'en aurais pas moins eu le droit de recourir le jour du jeu, dans le cas auquel par mon tricherie j'aurais gagné la partie; car une telle convention qui est nulle ne peut avoir aucun effet, ni me donner aucun droit. *Ponsard Traité du jeu*, Chap. 1, Sect. 1, Art. 3, par. 4."

If the decision of the Privy Council be held applicable to the case before the Judges at Calcutta, the principles of this great writer, which are clear as the light of day, are denied without being refuted. Human tribunals may give tolerance or impunity to such proceedings, but they cannot make them just. Believing that the acts above alluded to are at variance with the plainest dictates of justice and good faith, we are still contented to follow the doctrines of our celebrated and erudite guide.

MUSCOORIE AND ITS MUNICIPALITY.—We have been favored with some further information respecting the original projects of the Municipal system of this settlement, the de-

tails of which we published in our issue of the 6th ultimo, and are thus enabled to correct some errors into which we were led by our ignorance of local circumstances. We are happy to acknowledge that the residents of Muscoorie are even further advanced in the science of legislating for themselves, than we had imagined. It appears that, with few exceptions, all the house proprietors of Muscoorie are Europeans, holding Estates none of which are of less annual value than Rs. 400. The only other proprietors, properly so called, are a few Native Bumeas (small merchants) in the Bazar, whose properties consist of small huts, roughly built of grass or mud, and many of which are exempt from taxation. There is no great Bazar in Muscoorie—consequently few wealthy Natives,—and the settlement is supplied from the adjoining Military Bazaar of Landour, which, being a Military cantonment, is exempt from every species of assessment. The European proprietors of Muscoorie have always been distinguished by a spirit of bustling, active independence, very different from that manifested by the Anglo-Indian community of most Indian towns, and we are faint to ascribe it to their excellent climate, and consequently to subscribe to the doctrine which has been laid down, that the humid air of Bengal does to a considerable degree relax the mental as well as the bodily energy of the Anglo-Saxon race. They accordingly availed themselves to the fullest extent of the first Municipal Act ever published in India, Act. X. of 1842, and as the settlement was fortunately exempted by the remoteness of its situation from the interference of the Supreme Court, that Act was found nearly sufficient for their Municipal wants. The inhabitants appointed Committees to work out their own regulations, without the smallest interference from Government. Even the Superintendent of the Dehra was expressly excluded from taking the smallest share in the business of the Municipality, and up to the passing of the new Act, the system worked well. That Act introduced a new feature, in the appearance of the Magistrate as an ex-officio member of the Committee, but the proprietors, though sensible that this step was an improvement, were unwilling to relinquish the power of electing their own Commissioners. In their petition for the extension of Act XXVI. of 1850 to their settlement, they communicated their wishes on this head to the Lieutenant Governor, who at once complied to a request, and not only expressed his strong approval of the working arrangements of the old Committees, but also entrusted to the Proprietors, assisted by the Superintendent, the task of drawing up their own rules. These rules differed but little from those already in force, but the Proprietors retained, by a clause which we had omitted to notice, the power of altering their own regulations from time to time. There exists, therefore, no clause peremptorily confining them to certain modes of taxation, and the horse and jampan tax, which we suggested, was actually proposed at a Meeting of the Proprietors. It was, however, negatived on the sufficient ground that the weight of the tax itself, and still more the vexations it might inflict, would tend to drive visitors from the settlement to Landour, which is, as before mentioned, a Military and therefore a privileged station. The Proprietors, themselves, with no less disinclination than foresight, threw the whole burden of taxation upon themselves, and made it heavier or lighter according to the value of the property which was to contribute it. They appear through-



on the affair to have acted with a degree of energy and judgment, which would have been creditable to any municipality in England, and we can only repeat our regret that such communities are not to be met with also in Bengal. The only two places in the Lower Provinces where the influence of the Europeans is in some degree equal to that of the natives, are Calcutta and Howrah. In Calcutta, the Municipal Act is a farce, and in Howrah, the people have professed their determination to stick to the pigmy, out of which, according to Sydney Smith, all mankind originally rose.

**THE PENINSULAR COMPANY'S RETRANCE.**—The last Mail brings information that the Court of Directors have withdrawn their opposition—though not we suppose their objections—to the transfer of the Bombay and Suez line to the Peninsular Company. This intimation is received with mingled feelings of delight and dismay by the community in India. We rejoice in the prospect of having our packets accelerated, but we cannot contemplate without consternation and disgust, the establishment of a monopoly of Steam communication throughout the East, in the hands of a Company, who have manifested so much indifference to the comforts of the passengers. If this disregard for the interests of the community has been exhibited at a time when the monopoly was yet incomplete, and the suffrage of the public might have carried weight, what reformation can we now expect, when our interests are thus handed over to their tender mercies for another long and dreary period? We naturally looked to competition to cure the evils of monopoly, but that hope is now to be taken away by rendering the monopoly more extensive and lasting. The complaints which have been made of the wretched character of the provisions, were made by passengers of the highest rank, whose testimony on such a subject is unimpeachable. We believe it is a well known fact that, notwithstanding the heavy charges which continue to be made for passages, the commissaries of the vessels have often been supplied from the refuse of the auctions and the bazaar, and that cheapness has been the first and the only consideration. Now, while we are fully prepared to applaud the exercise of a judicious economy, we also maintain that in the position in which the Company has been placed by the Government contract, and which gives them a monopoly of the passenger traffic, and enables them to charge the highest sums for passage money with perfect impunity, they are bound to exhibit the utmost liberality in their internal arrangements. The Government has just the same right to interfere with the arrangements of this Company, as it has with those of the Railway Companies; and as soon as the home authorities delegate to the local Government the power of rectifying complaints, there is every reason to hope that these evils will be redressed. The Company will then find that the exasperation of the community is not a matter which they can easily despise.

In a paper now before us, "News and Notes for the Calcutta Mail," we find the following passage: "The home authorities of the P. and O. Company have made a great mistake since the days of Captain Engledeu's management. They have enjoyed rich economy, which is all very well, but they have forgotten to inoculate upon their Agents that the safest economy is a judicious liberality. They have, too, for some time past, had a double management here—two superintendents; possibly with the idea that one would not be so much opposed to the other. This is a

system that cannot work satisfactorily, and it ought to have been found out by this time." The perusal of this passage reminds us that as long as the management of the affairs of the Company was in the hands of one sole Agent, Captain Engledeu, and his successor Mr. Emerson, its arrangements gave general satisfaction, and that complaints have grown up and multiplied only since this system of double management has been in operation. There can, therefore, be no hesitation whatever in attributing them to the mistaken policy which the home authorities have thus been led to adopt. Such a scheme of joint responsibility has never yet succeeded in any undertaking; and in the present instance, its result has been to cover the Company with obloquy. A house divided against itself, says Holy Writ, cannot stand, and the maxim is of universal application. The simple fact of the appointment of one agent to check another, has an inevitable tendency to place them in a state of mutual opposition, and to create a difference of opinion on every occasion. If the one yields to the other, it would be far better to leave the sole responsibility with the Agent whose influence is thus paramount. If there be discord between them, there is no umpire to arbitrate, and the most disastrous interruptions of business and deterioration of efficiency must necessarily ensue. Such has, we believe, been the case, in this instance; every screw has become loose; a peddling parsimony has become the order of the day, and the public have been the victims of this policy. The Company might as well appoint two commanders to their vessels, as appoint a double management in the counting house. It is only since this new system was adopted, that the confidence which the public formerly felt in the Company has been exchanged for mistrust and dissatisfaction, and that confidence will not be regained, nor will the public complaints cease, until the Directors have restored that system of unity of administration and responsibility, which formerly brought such credit to their establishments. The Company must also remember that they have to deal with a large and patriotic community in Calcutta, and that the individual who stands forth as their representative must be one who is able to fulfil all the requirements of such a post.

**MAP OF BENGOAL IN BENGALIAN.**—We are delighted to perceive that the efforts of the pioneers of Indian education, are directed to the improvement of the means of imparting geographical instruction to the native community. There is probably no branch of study in which natives of all classes are so thoroughly deficient, as in Geography, and a young man, who can work the differential calculus, is frequently unable to decide whether London is the capital of Europe, or Europe a province of England. One great reason of this ignorance is the absence of Maps in the vernacular character, and we are happy to see that efforts are now making to secure their publication. We lately noticed a Map of Europe in the Bengalee character, published by an able teacher of the Hindoo College, and we have now before us a Map of Bengal, in the same language, issued by the Rev. T. Smith of the Free Church. It is reduced from that published by M. Tassin, and is Fifty inches long by Thirty inches broad. It has been beautifully lithographed, and contains a very large amount of information for its size. Mr. Smith has retained the English names of places in the Bengalee character, to which there appears a very serious objection, although we have no doubt the plan, was

adopted with the view of making the Map the means of elucidating English geographies. In order to bring it within the reach of the humblest schools, the price has been fixed as low as Rs. 2-8, and we hope soon to see it adopted in every institution in the country, and not only adopted, but used. Native students require no little instruction before they can comprehend the advantage of a Map, and nothing but its incessant use, can furnish them with that perfect knowledge of the relative distances, and importance of particular places, which comes almost by instinct to the European youths.

**CYCLOID TABLES OF HINDU AND MAHOMEDAN CHRONOLOGY.**—Prepared by Charles Philip Brown, *Madras Civil Service.*—We have had copies of these tables in our possession for several weeks, and have now to return our thanks to the learned author for sending them to us, and at the same time to apologise to him for leaving them so long without notice. We can fully appreciate the vast amount of research that Mr. Brown has expended in the preparation of the tables, and it is with pleasure we acknowledge, that he has laid under a deep obligation all those who avocations or whose tastes lead them into enquiries with subjects in which Hindu dates are involved. To Collectors, and all who have to do with questions respecting land-tenures, the tables will be invaluable; while all who are engaged, or who shall hereafter engage, in historical or antiquarian researches, will gladly avail themselves of the important aid they will afford them. It is a somewhat threadbare quotation, but it is a very truthful, and a very pointed, aphorism, that "Geography and Chronology are the two eyes of history;" and every rectification of our ideas of the position of a place on the globe, or of the date of a particular occurrence, is a positive gain. There is yet much to be done in both these departments, before the history of this country be so luminous as it is desirable that it should be; and the publication of the work before us is an important step in the right direction.

The main feature of this is a chronological table, extending from 967 to 1860 A. D., giving the year of the Salsivahana era, and also the year of the "Cycle of 60," corresponding to each year of the Christian era throughout the period over which the table extends. Mr. Brown seems, with almost incredible labor, to have verified a large proportion of the years by reference to some inscription or other record; and the result of his investigation is valuable in this way as well as in others, that it proves the inaccuracy that prevailed even in official documents in former times. It will enable our readers to form some idea of the labor necessary to be employed in order to the production of such a table as that before us, if we give a short explanation of the way in which dates are generally fixed in the records with which Mr. Brown has had to deal. The Salsivahana era takes its beginning in A. D. 78, and goes on regularly side by side with our own era, so that we can at once find the year of the one era corresponding to a given year in the other by adding 78 to the Salsivahana year, or subtracting 78 from the Christian year. The records are not so ready for doubt or difficulty. But in the 349th year of the Salsivahana period, or A. D. 427, the cycle of 60 was introduced. Each year of the 60 is distinguished by a peculiar name. Thus for example, the present year 1861 A. D., which is the year 1778 of the Salsivahana era, is the year Virudhithi, or the 45th year, of the twenty-fourth cycle of 60. But in practice the number of the cycle is frequently omitted, and the year is only distinguished by "its title," or number in the current cycle—just as we sometimes familiarly speak of the year of a century without indicating the century, as we call the current year "the year '51," or as our Scottish friends speak, still more curiously, of the '16 or the '48. Now, as the title Virudhithi is common to the forty-fifth year of every cycle; and therefore, we have no means of ascertaining whether it refers to 1861, or to 1791, or 1731, or any other year distant from 1861 backwards or forwards by any multiple of 60. Mr. Brown has verified an immense number of documents thus dated by

























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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "ORIENTAL," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Soan, and the Intermediate Ports, (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel "Oriental," will be closed at this Office, on Friday, the 17th Provision, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Saturday, the 24th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Koolpore, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Oriental can be received after 5 P.M. of this date.

J. R. BRUNTON BARRISTER,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge,  
Genl. Post Office, 17th February, 1851.

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THE RAIL.—We understand that Major Kennedy and Mr. Turnbull have returned from their survey of the line from Rajmahal to the Soane with an impression that the straight line to Mirzapore through the Hills of Behar is not the most advisable. They were reported to contemplate a line diverging in some measure both from that which was proposed by the East India Railway Company, and that of the Great Western. The latter, as we find on a reference to the papers of 1846, proposed to carry the Rail from Calcutta to Chagla, then to cross the Hooghly by a bridge and run up to the Ganges, and skirt its southern bank to Patna, and then to cross that river to Hajidpore, and continue the line to Benares and Allahabad. The other Company, to whom the contract has now been given, preferred the direct line from the metropolis to Mirzapore. That portion of their line which extends from Howrah to the Collieries has already obtained the sanction of Government both here and in England, and will be prosecuted without delay. To the continuation of the line from that point to Mirzapore, there are now said to be the most serious engineering difficulties. The Dunwade pass presents an elevation of more than a thousand feet, and the construction of the Rail through that district of Hills would entail a fearful expenditure, both in the original operations, and in the subsequent working of the line. It would also involve a very considerable loss of time. It is, moreover, found that the Soane, which is between two and three miles wide at the point where it would be intersected by the Rail, in the direct line to Mirzapore, is less than a mile wide near its junction with the Ganges. It has, therefore, been suggested to continue the present line to some point near Boobood, about twenty miles west of Burdwan, and then to run the main line through Boobood, at the eastern base of the Hills to Rajmahal, and continue it from that point along the right bank of the Ganges to Mirzapore. It was part of the plan, undertaken by the direct route to connect branch lines to Rajmahal, Patna and Benares. But it is probable that the whole length of the trunk to Mir-

pore and those branches, would be equal to the line which has been now projected first to the Collieries, and then from Boobood to the Ganges and along its valley to Mirzapore; at the same time the terrific passes which appear to present the most formidable of all obstacles, would be avoided. When all these circumstances are taken into consideration, it is by no means improbable that the Home authorities may be induced to sanction the route we have now described, although a more minute survey of the ground may yet suggest further modifications of it. As regards the opinion which we have hitherto expressed on the subject of the direct line from Calcutta to Mirzapore, it is sufficient to say that it was adopted on the only surveys then existing, and which then formed our only basis of calculation, and that it was supported both by Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Simms. At the very outset of this discussion, five years ago, we gave our vote for the direct line, as the "nearest practicable route from Calcutta to Mirzapore." If a more minute and circumstantial survey of that line has presented difficulties which were not at first appreciated, and have shown that another route from that great mart to the port of Calcutta is more practicable and less expensive, we submit at once to the decision of the Engineers.

We regret to find that the state of Major Kennedy's health still constrains him to adhere to the determination he had formed, on the advice of the faculty, to avoid another hot season in India and return to England by the March Steamer. His services would at all times have been invaluable; but at such a juncture as the present, when we are about to enter upon active operations, the loss of them is doubly to be deplored. His great experience in these matters, his clear judgment, his decision of character, and above all, his indomitable energy, pointed him out as the man for the time, and his departure is therefore a matter of equal regret to the Government and the officers of the Railway establishment. In the soundness of his views all parties have been led to repose the utmost confidence, and we so look to his impulsive influence to overcome that passive resistance of men and circumstances which has been found to mar so many enterprises in India. One source of consolation in these circumstances is derived from the hope of his being able to afford the most valuable assistance in promoting the object of the Rail, in England. We trust that he will succeed in persuading the Indian authorities at home to take advantage of the present abundance of unemployed Capital in England to guarantee five or six millions more for the Rail—the lapse of Bajee Row's pension will cover nearly Two Millions—and to avail themselves of the present low price of iron, and freight, to send us out whatever may be necessary for the line to Mirzapore. Perhaps, he will also be able to induce the authorities in England to apply a taper to the authorities in India, and insist on their making such arrangements, as it regards men and things, as shall ensure the progression of the Rail at something like a Railway speed.

THE LARSON FINE PROBERTY.—Bunjeet Singh was one day looking over some colored map of India, with the aid of one of the Euro-

peans at his Court, and asked what the different colors indicated. His attendant explained that the green represented the independent states, and the yellow the tributary principalities. But what, said the old chief, does this red color which is so predominant throughout the map, signify? He was told that it marked the boundaries of the British dominions; on which he tossed the map away, and said, *Sub lal ho jagu.* "It will all become red." The sale now in progress of the entire contents of his jewel office in the Sheesh Mahal at Lahore reminds us of the rapid fulfilment of his anticipations. When this remarkable prophecy was uttered, Bunjeet Singh was in the zenith of his glory; the strength of his kingdom was unbroken, and it seemed as if his territories would be last to receive the red mark of extinction. But before ten years have passed away, his dynasty has become a matter of history, and his unequivocal index of absorption, the auctioneer's hammer, resounds through his own halls. We are surrounded on all sides in India with tokens of the mutability of fortune in the subversion of its thrones, the humiliation of its princes, the impoverishment of its nobles, and the creation of new institutions; but in no country have these changes come on so suddenly and rapidly as in the Punjab. Except perhaps in the case of Scinde, there has been no instance of so immediate and so complete an annihilation of old institutions and associations, or so entire a dispersion of nobles and princes, or so organic a change of local and political influences. We have Runjeet Singh's successor, an English pensioner, residing in an English town, under the charge of an English Surgeon; the Queen mother, an exile, whose very residence is scarcely known; the chiefs who stood around Runjeet's throne, in captivity; and Moolraj, the brave defender of Mooltan, a state prisoner at Singapore. And now, in the magnificent chamber of the Sheesh Mahal, where Runjeet Singh held his splendid court, and which was once crowded with the military and political chiefs whom his genius had raised to wealth and power, we find all the spoils of war, and the accumulations of peace, whatever was rare, and precious and costly in his palace, exposed to the rude gaze and touch of the commercial speculator, and dispersed by the fiat of a Calcutta auctioneer. The scene is calculated to fill the mind with melancholy reflections, for which there is no relief except from the assurance that this extinction of all that was great and gorgeous in the Court of the Punjab, is the precursor of a new and more beneficial order of things, and that it will lead to the security of property and the prosperity of agriculture, and the complete development of the resources of the country.

THE CERTIFICATE ACT XX. OF 1841.—Perhaps there may be some of our readers ready to enquire what is the nature and value of the Certificate, to which we allude. Be it known then to all those who require information, that in the year 1841, Government laid down rules in this Act for granting administration to the estates of Hindoos, Mahomedans, and others, not usually designated as British subjects. The applicant was required to present a petition to the Judge of the district in

which the property was situated, explaining his title to represent the deceased. The Judge was then to *issue notice of application*, invite claimants, fix a day for hearing the petition, and, on the appointed day, or any subsequent day, determine the right to the certificate, and grant the same accordingly. The Act has afforded the greatest facilities to those for whose benefit was intended, to collect all the debts due to the estate of the deceased, while the expense of obtaining the Certificate has not equaled a tenth the sum required for a Probate, or Letters of Administration in the Supreme Court. As far as we have been able to learn, the natives have manifested an increased disposition to avail themselves of this Act, in proportion as its provisions have become known.

In the last *Calcutta Gazette*, the draft of an Act for amending and extending the power to grant Certificates of administration of the personal estate of deceased persons, was promulgated. We desire to avail ourselves of this opportunity of pointing out two of the provisions of the Act, the defects of which have been made apparent by the experience of the last ten years. In the first place, the Act simply orders that the Judge shall issue notice of application, but this is a most vague and indefinite expression. To whom, and in what manner, and for how long a period is he to issue notice? There have been instances in which parties have been enabled, under the ambiguity of this provision, to obtain possession of property by collusion with the Judge's Shriestadar. The notice has been issued in such a mode as exclude the possibility of its becoming known to those who were interested in the estate. It appears desirable therefore for the Legislative Council to take occasion of the present tinkering of the Act to correct this deficiency. This Certificate corresponds with the Probate and Letters of Administration granted by the Crown Courts. Why then should not the same kind of publicity be given, and for the same period, in the one case as in the other? Nothing would be easier than to draw out a Form of Notification and direct it to be suspended for a given time in the Court of the Zillah Judge and the local Moonisif, and above all, to be published for *Three weeks* in the *official Gazette*.

In the second place, the 4th Section of the Act, directs that the Zillah Judge may take security from any person to whom he shall grant a Certificate, "for rendering an account of debts received by him." To whom is this account to be rendered, and within what time? Here again, we seem to require a more exact conformity with the practice of the Queen's Courts in the case of Letters of Administration. It would certainly prove a valuable check on malversation, if the person who receives this Certificate was bound down—in the form of the Certificate promulgated by the Sudder in February, 1842,—to deliver in a faithful and accurate Schedule of all the sums received by him in virtue of it, to the Court from which it issued, within six, or nine, or twelve months. Neither should it be left optional with the Judge to take security from the holder of the Certificate for rendering this circumstantial report of his stewardship to the Court. The survey should render himself responsible in the Bond for the due and punctual filing of these accounts.

**THE EXAMINATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS IN THE LANGUAGES OF THE COUNTRY,** has been one of the most interesting topics on the carpet for the last three months. Every one knows that the Court of Directors have repeatedly issued orders that staff appointments should

be given to those officers of the army who had passed a satisfactory examination in the native languages. It is equally known, that this injunction, like many others of a beneficial character, has become a dead letter; that many officers who have never passed have been pushed into situations, while many who have established their linguistic qualifications have been left to pine in obscurity for want of interest. All of a sudden, the home authorities have become animated with a new impulse on this question, and have issued orders that all those staff officers who have obtained appointments during the last fifteen years, should be required to undergo an examination, and be deprived of their post and remanded to their corps, if they were unable to pass it. Lord Dalhousie is said to have announced his determination, to set up to the letter of these instructions, and supersede every officer who was unable to pass the ordeal within a given time. Great diligence has therefore been evinced by the various officers to secure the re-issuance of their places by a College Certificate of qualifications, but it is said that more than thirty posts are still likely to become vacant by failures, which will place a large amount of patronage at the disposal of the Governor General. In that case, it is to be hoped that Government will perceive the justice of providing for those officers who have heretofore passed their examination with credit, but have been kept in the back ground for want of a friend at Head Quarters. They have assuredly the first claim on these vacancies.

The justice of this measure depends on the offices to which its operation is extended. There are not a few situations filled by officers in which the most perfect knowledge of the language would be no qualification, while a quick eye, decision of character and great diligence would prove of the greatest importance. It is possible too that those habits of mind which are sometimes created by philological studies, would rather serve to disqualify the successful student for such situations. In these cases, to deprive an able man of business of his office, and the administration of his services, because he could not read the *Bagh-o-behar* with perfect fluency, would be an act of absurdity. There are other situations of civil, criminal, fiscal or administrative trust, which it is impossible for an officer to fill conscientiously, or usefully, without a complete knowledge of the native language both written and spoken. His ignorance of it makes him necessary to a hundred acts of injustice, and is, therefore, a disqualification for which nothing can compensate. Every officer who has occupied such a post, and who is unable to pass a most satisfactory examination, should be forthwith deprived of this appointment and remanded to regimental duty. We have no feeling of consideration for the European functionary who is obliged to address the suitor in his Court, through the medium of an interpreter. The longer he has remained in office perpetrating the injustice of transacting business in a language foreign to the people, the stronger is the argument for displacing him. We trust, too, that Government will not stop at this measure, and resume its slumbers after this spasmodic movement, but follow it up by the most rigid scrutiny into the qualifications of all future candidates. But, if the Court and the Government would vindicate their own character for justice and impartiality, they must extend the principle to the Civil Service. Every member of that service has, of course, passed the ordeal of the College, and obtained a Certificate of qualification. As-

long admitted by Government, it would be an inadvisable act to question it; yet it is notorious that for all practical purposes this testimonial is a mere piece of waste paper, and that not one-half of the civilians in Bengal comprehend the language of the people. It is therefore indispensable for the just and honest administration of justice that every young civilian should undergo a second and more stringent examination after he has been two or three years in actual employment, before a Committee composed of other examiners besides the officers of the College.

**A SECOND AND REVISED EDITION OF THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL ACT** has just been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. The most material difference between the present and the last scheme is the entire abandonment of the Wheel and Cattle tax, which has always been highly unpopular, and which it is so easy to evade. We have heard of more than one instance of the wealthy Baboo who are seen on the Courser in their splendid harnesses every evening, reclining in their schools that they kept nothing beyond an old buggy. The principle on which the tax was levied was, moreover, very ambiguous, and the whole system was not only very unpalatable, but highly complicated. Perhaps also the cart drivers who convey goods to and from the shipping may have had some hand in upsetting the coach; they struck work on a recent occasion, on the pretence of being unable to afford this new assessment. However equitable, therefore, may be the theory that the vehicles which wear out the roads should contribute to their repair, we cannot but commend the prudence of Government in yielding to the general wish of society, and abrogating so obnoxious a tax. To make up for this diminution of the municipal resources, it is now proposed to increase the house tax to a small extent, thus:

Houses of less monthly rent than Three Rupees, to be exempt.

If valued at a monthly rent of 3 Rs. and less than 20 Rs., 2 annas and a half quarterly for each Rupee of monthly rent.

If valued at a monthly rent of 20 Rs. and less than 60 Rs., 3 annas quarterly for every Rupee of monthly rent.

If valued at 60 Rs. monthly and upwards, 3 annas and a half quarterly for every Rupee of monthly rent.

The present assessment is at the rate of five per cent. The new rate, on each of the three classes of houses is as follows:—a little more than five per cent. on the lowest; six per cent. on the middle, and seven per cent. on the highest. The increase of assessment falls heaviest on the houses which are best able to bear it, and is altogether so trifling that it is likely to give general satisfaction. The scale of assessment at Singapore is not less than ten per cent. We cannot, however, see how this partial increase of the assessment is to make up for the loss of the horse and carriage tax. The gross amount of that assessment was 70,000 Rs. for the four quarters. The gross amount of the House tax was Rs. 2,98,000. Be that as it may, it must not be forgotten, that the resources of the Commissioners, even after this augmentation, will still be totally inadequate to the duty of improving the town which was imposed on them by the Act of interminable length, numbered 41 of 1847. More than fifteen years have elapsed since any improvement whatever has been made in Calcutta, and the city of Palaces is the only town owned and governed by a civilized people, in which all improvement is absolutely unknown. Unless Government be prepared to

transfer some portion of the Excise on spirituous liquors, or of the Canal receipts to the Commissioners, their appointment is a mockery. What a contrast does the state of Liverpool present at the end of fifteen years to the stationary and stagnant state of Calcutta.

**THE PUNJAB MISSION.**—We have extracted from the *Calcutta Christian Advocate* a letter on the subject of the proposed Mission in the Punjab which we would recommend to the perusal of all who feel an interest in Missionary labours. The writer, though not connected with the Episcopal Church, warmly advocates the Church Mission, which it is proposed to establish in that country, and we most cordially join with him in the hope that it will meet with due encouragement from the Christian public in India. It is at the same time highly desirable that the efforts which may be made for its support should be in addition to these which are made for Missions already established in other parts of the country, and should not be allowed to interfere with their resources. With this object, the Church Missionary Society in England have resolved, as we learn, to consider this as a new and independent department of Missionary labour, and to avoid mixing up the funds which may be contributed to it, with its general revenue. The Mission will commence under the most favourable circumstances. The Scriptures have already been translated into the language of the Punjab, and are ready for distribution, and the Mission Press which has been so long and so diligently worked at Ludhiana by the American Presbyterian Missionaries, will furnish the greatest facilities for multiplying copies of the New Testament and of Tracts. From researches which have recently been made regarding the state of the people, it appears, moreover, that education is more prized and more diffused among them than in our older Provinces, and that female Schools, the establishment of which is so vigorously opposed by the Orthodox Hindoos in Calcutta, already exist to a considerable extent. The ground seems to be in measure prepared for the immortal seed of divine Truth, and it now becomes the duty of all those who have experienced its blessed effects in their own hearts, to make a vigorous effort for the cultivation of this new and promising field.

**UNOVERTAKEN SERVICE BANK.**—We have been favored with a Report of this little unpretending Bank for the past year with a request that we would give it a cursory notice in this journal. We comply with the request with much pleasure. It was established on the 17th of March 1859, by some members of the Unoveraken Service at Agra, with the view of providing a safe and profitable deposit for the small savings of the prudent thrifty. Its funds have gradually increased, till its operations embrace a sum of about 70,000 Rs. including a capital of about 24,000 Rs. It grants loans at twelve per cent., on two or more approved securities, repayable in various periods, extending from six months to two years, according to the magnitude of the transaction. Its capital stock is fixed at Rs. 80,000, which is divided into 600 shares at 50 Rs. each. It has five Directors, one of whom receives 100 Rs. a month, and a Secretary, whose allowance we are unable to learn. It is a small institution, but what its wants in size is made up in honesty and candour. The Report opens with the remark that "while ships sink, ships swim, so, while big banks go down, little ones, like that of the Unoveraken Service, float." It has no "fictitious or un-

paid stock. None of the Bank's scrip does duty for assets. The whole of the Reserve fund is vested in real Government Securities. None of its office holders has any debit. There are no hopeless dues." The Bank has, moreover, learnt wisdom from the misfortunes of its neighbours. "Unfortunately the name of Secretary, whether descriptive of Secretary, Trustee or Director, has, through the rascalities practised elsewhere become so questionable, that we beg there may not be the least delicacy shown in scrutinizing its affairs." But not only is the Bank an incomparable Bank, with office bearers so honest, and transparent, that the Bank of Bengal might envy it, but the Secretary himself who drew up the Report is a jewel of a Secretary. There is an off-handed and satirical smartness in the document, which is altogether new in the annals of Indian Banking, as the following description of the progress and catastrophe of Banking bankruptcy will testify. "The whole establishment are the servants of the Secretary; the Directors are mere judges of Securities in the cases he puts before them. Commercial principles are raised as a screen behind which he entrenches himself, though occasionally a couple of shabbily paid Auditors are allowed a limited peep, and thus questionable transactions are effectually concealed. Then may follow, had debts, losses and frauds, by fragments of account, all figuring as good Assets,—while the Capital dwindles away in dividends. A little light breaks at last into the crazy edifice, dishonest directors discover their own danger, and try to sell out; the Secretary stands a rogue confessed; notice to pay off overgrown deposits is received—and the crowd of befooled Shareholders have to await a crash." Forewarned, says the old Saxon proverb, is forearmed; and so, it is to be expected that this bank, seeing the dangers which beset all banking institutions in this country from 'roguish secretaries' and 'dishonest directors,' will be enabled to avoid the rocks on which so many interests and hopes have been wrecked. But is there not a germ of danger in the rule which allows the Directors to grant loans of 5,000 Rs. repayable in three years? What, if the unquestionable securities on which such a loan is given should prove unstable, or even rotten? The higher the interest given in large transactions, the more ticklish and suspicious do they become. The safety of a bank which expects to divide Twelve per cent. must consist in the smallness of its individual transactions. A Bank is after all but a pawnbroker's shop on a large scale, just a pawnbroker's shop with its balls is a bank on a small scale. We think the wisdom of the Directors will be best exhibited in contracting the amount and the duration of their loans. We could have wished also that there had been less of that spirit of unbridled confidence in the financial position of the bank, which the Report breathes. But we shall always rejoice to hear of its prosperity.

**REGISTRATION OF LETTERS.**—Our remarks on this subject have brought us an ungainly letter from some one who has adopted the very appropriate signature of "Thingumbob." We have endeavored to make it our rule to treat every correspondent and every opponent with the utmost courtesy, and we naturally expect that it shall be reciprocated. We should therefore have conigned the letter immediately to the rubbish basket, if the writer had not given us facts in reference to the question of registration, which it is important to take into consideration. He says,

"The recent order regarding the non-registration of letters, has no doubt been a source of mischief to the Public, and gain to the Telp-walas. You are perhaps not disposed to believe this, but if you will have a little patience, I will relate an instance in which the Baboo took advantage of the new order at my expense.

"Not a fortnight ago, I posted a letter to a friend in a neighbouring station, the postage of which I prepaid and obtained accordingly a receipt, signed and sealed. The beggar of the Baboo not only buried my letter, and extracted from it a handsome Bank-note of 25 Rupees but took advantage of the postage I prepaid, to dispatch a letter to a friend of his at that very station. As a matter of course, my friend did not receive the letter; and when I came to hear of this, I hurried to the Post Master, and produced all the receipts I had, laying a complaint against his Moonabee. The shrewd fellow, very quietly explained that his chellans were all right, and that, on that day he dispatched so many letters to that station, and they were all received there, as the return chellan would show. He acknowledged having received my letter, and swore to its actual dispatch. A reference was made to the Post Office of the other station, and still no clue could be got as to the fate of my letter, that officer having replied that under the present system of non-registration, it was impossible to find out what letters were received and what not. The Post Master could do nothing, but condemn the objectionable order, and express his regret at my not having paid the 8 annas fee for special registry. A loser I have been, and there is no remedy, simply because the system of registration has been abolished. Could the Dark Moonabee have dared to suppress a letter under the old system?

"Whilst talking the other day with a friend, who has some experience in postal affairs, I was surprised to hear of a systematic course of frauds practised by a clever Dark Moonabee in a certain station. This man, since the time registration of letters was abolished, commenced burying any letter that he suspected to contain some valuables, and in order to make up the number of letters received each day, substituted others with fictitious names, and dispatched them to the stations where the suppressed letters were addressed. As a matter of course, heaps of unclaimed letters were returned from all directions, and innumerable complaints preferred by senders. Every one produced, like me, his own Post Book, containing receipts; but enquiry elicited nothing. The Dark Moonabee said, he has dispatched them all, and there being no detailed registers to show whether he has actually sent the letters for which he gave receipts, he could not be convicted."

From this representation of our correspondent, it would appear, that when all letters were registered in the office from which they were sent, and a corresponding register was kept in the office in which they were received, it was impossible for a Dark Moonabee to substitute a letter of his own for the letter supposed to contain valuable articles which he had buried; but that he has now only to make up the requisite number of letters for each station to be able to evade all detection. This is a new and important feature of the case, and we submit it for the examination of those who have a practical knowledge of the matter.

**THE FINANCIALS OF INDIA.**—We resume and conclude our remarks on the article in the *Jes-*

by *News* regarding the finances of India. The Editor states that the "legitimate consequences of these wars, this expansion of territory, and this disregard of natural right, has been financial embarrasments and additional loans." That the embarrasment of our Indian finances, that is, the excess of expenditure over income, and the consequent contraction of loans, has arisen out of the wars we have been successively engaged in, is a self-evident fact. The Indian debt of Forty-five Millions Sterling is nothing more or less than the sum which has been expended—over and above the local revenues,—in the creation and consolidation of the empire which Britain now holds in India. And, it is one of the most remarkable facts connected with the subject, that this is the only instance in our history in which so magnificent a dependency has been added to the dominions of the Crown by successive increment, without entailing any expense whatever on the mother country. It is from the resources of the country itself that an Empire has been created, within the period of a century, surpassing in magnitude that which Roman ambition built up in five centuries, which embraces a population of Eighty Millions, yields an annual revenue of Twenty-Seven Millions Sterling, which furnishes a market for Seven Millions of British manufactures, and affords provision for the sons of the upper and middling classes of society in England to the extent of more than Seven Millions Sterling a year. This addition to the strength and grandeur of England has been effected without any drain on its exchequer. From first to last, the cost of our conquests in India has been defrayed from the resources which it has furnished; partly from its current revenue, and partly by the anticipation of its future revenues, which are hypothecated for the loans which have been contracted. It may be very well for the people of England as the *Daily News* says, "to count up the cost" of this conquest; but they must not forget, that they reap all the benefit of it, without sustaining any of its financial responsibility.

The *Daily News* is uneasy at the annual deficit, which in four years amounted to £8,700,000, one-third of which was incurred in 1848-49. This was the last year of the Punjab war, which terminated two years ago, and of the deficiency belonging to that year, three-fourths, or about £1,600,000, arose out of that war. There can be little question that if Lord Gough, instead of thwarting the vigorous and judicious plans of Sir Frederick Currie, had sent a large and efficient force to Multan, as soon as the outbreak was announced, the citadel would have fallen immediately into our hands, the chiefs of the Khalsa would have revolted, the insurrection would not have been matured into a rebellion, and we should have been saved three-fourths of this deficit; but, in that case, the Punjab would not have been incorporated with our empire, for many years to come. The deficiency alone alluded to must therefore be considered as the price we have paid for this large accession of territory, and we believe it will be found that, even in a financial point of view, this sum has been most advantageously laid out, and that the whole amount, with interest, will be more than covered by the additional revenues obtained from the fertile country of the five rivers in five or six years. If we were still engaged in war, and our finances were still burdened with the boundless, and uncontrollable expenditure of a field establishment, the uneasiness of our London contemporary would get to be misplaced, but it must be clear as an Indian full-

moon on a cloudless night, that the return of peace will bring with it the cessation of all extraordinary war charges, as well as of the annual deficit, and of new loans, and with this auspicious change in circumstances, the *Daily News* may surely fold up his gloomy forebodings, and open his mind to the cheerfulness of hope.

But our contemporary has little confidence in the permanence of these peaceful prospects. "Since October, 1858, war has been the chronic complaint of India; within that period we have repeatedly congratulated ourselves on the restoration of peace and have as repeatedly been disappointed." If the writer, however, will wisely compare the circumstances in which we stood before 1858, with those in which eleven years of warfare have placed us, he will at once understand the reason why Indian journalists should dissent from his opinion, and entertain a strong expectation of the continuance of peace.

At the beginning of the year 1858, the rumours of a Russian invasion of India were diligently spread throughout the country by means of a seditious *Maharaden* Press, supported by the impulse and the gold of Persia. A feeling of dismay was diffused far and wide through the country, and in the remotest districts of the south men began to bury their money and jewels in the earth. To such an extent was this disaffection and dismay disseminated, that it was seriously debated by some of the most eminent members of the Government, whether some means ought not to be adopted to curb the treasonable excesses of the native press. But the press was left untouched, and when it was found that instead of the Three hundred thousand Russian swords which were about to be brandished on the Indus, Afghanistan had yielded to our arms, and Dost Mahomed was a fugitive, those journals lost their influence. At that period there were three independent well equipped, and,—as the event proved—most troublesome armies still existing in Scinde, Gwalior, and the Punjab, numbering more than 120,000 soldiers, with more than a thousand pieces of cannon. While these armies continued unbroken, we were always liable to be called into the field, and the peace of India was precarious. They have now ceased to exist. We have nothing here to do with the cause of the late wars; we allude to them only in connection with that extraordinary change which has been made in our position in Hindoostan. These independent powers we have conquered; we have defeated their armies; we have captured their cannon, and we have extinguished, irrevocably extinguished their military resources and organization. These countries, moreover, have been disarmed, and we are making the most strenuous efforts to turn the swords of our new subjects into ploughshares. Nor is there any reason to doubt that we shall experience the same gratifying result which has attended similar efforts in Bokhara, which we were obliged to curb by the presence of five regiments, sixty years ago, but in which even a single regiment is now found almost redundant. For the first time in our political history in India, there is not a single organized body of native troops belonging to any Prince at the present time—except, perhaps, the disorderly soldiers of the Nizam—which an army of 6000 of our men would not be sufficient, under good management, to disperse. There is scarcely a fort which would not surrender to us after a cannonade of a few hours. We, of course, except Nepal, which will not, however, go to war with us while Jung Bahadur remains in power, and retains any resources—offering some two millions of men—valueless—the warring nations—assisted in a

single city in England. We have now, therefore, attained that position in India, in which we may contemplate the perpetuity of peace with feelings of confidence, and simply, because there is no enemy left. War has indeed, hitherto begot war in India. So long as there remained an independent and powerful army, so long the prospects of peace were uncertain, partly, perhaps, through our own political sensitiveness, and partly also from the hopes and ambition of the native prince who commended it. But we have now, to all appearance, arrived at that stage of our political progress in India in which war has begotten peace, and if there be any European war to disturb our Indian relations, we have every reason to calculate on its durability.

As it regards the deficit of 1848-49 which amounts to £2,270,000, the sum of £1,600,000, as we have stated, consisted of War Extraneousness, leaving us only £670,000 to deal with, and it will tend to relieve all anxiety on this score, to state generally that the last published statement of the revenues of Bengal and Bahar exhibits an improvement of the balance of revenue, after the civil expenses of the administration have been defrayed, of more than a Million sterling over the preceding year. When to this sum is added an accession of, say, £120,000 from the excheated state of Sattara, £89,000 from the lapsed pension of Bajee Row, and some £200,000 at the least from the Punjab, the *Daily News* will, we are sure, perceive that there is more cause for congratulation than for mistrust. We should only weary the reader, if we were to attempt to go over the various elements of the public revenue at the different Presidencies, but after the most searching and impartial comparison of figures in successive years we are enabled to assure our contemporary that none of the great sources of income, Land, Customs, Salt, Opium have been in any degree whatever impaired. Here our discussion might be brought to a natural termination, but there are one or two matters which require mention, as we are anxious to put the Editor on his guard against the adoption of hasty or partial views.

The *Daily News* is unjust towards us in reference to our remarks on the mode in which the accounts were prepared. We stated, "that from the plan adopted in drawing up these financial statements, it was difficult to ascertain what was the exact position of the Indian finances." Having cited his quotation at this point, the Editor assumes that we had charged the Government of India with making up accounts to deceive the legislature. If he had quoted the whole sentence, it would have been seen that we referred only to the deductions which were made on both sides of the account before they were cast up and balanced. All that we did, was to give the sum total of the receipts in one column, and to place the expenses of collection, with all other items of expenditure, on the opposite side. From the mode in which the accounts have been drawn up for many years, a general impression has been created that the revenues of India amounted only to 20 millions sterling, and, though this was unquestionably the net revenue, after payment of allowances, and assignments; and charges of collection, yet the actual sum in cash obtained from this dependency of the Crown does not fall short, in the current year, of 27 Millions Sterling, or one-half the revenues of the United Kingdom. Yet to such magnitude has England grown since the first Charter was granted two centuries and a half ago; that this magnificent dependency, with all its important interests, and its vast revenues, could command the slightest attention



in Parliament, but the very mention of its name occasions a rush to the door, and clears the House.

The *Daily News* has also been led into a singular error in assuming that the apparent difference between the net and the gross revenue of Five Millions Sterling is a "fictitious percentage for the cost of collection." If he will examine these published accounts with more diligence, he will find that of this sum which he assumes as the cost of collection nearly a million and a half sterling consist of the sum expended in the manufacture of Salt and Opium, nearly half a million represents the stipends paid to Native Princes, and about One Million more is made up of the "allowances to district and village officers, and emendations and charitable grants to mosques and pagodas at Bombay." The cost of collecting the land revenue of nearly fifteen Millions Sterling, does not exceed Ten per cent.

We cannot conclude this article without repeating our advice to the *Daily News*, not to admit the groundless assumption that the opinion we have given on the subject of the finances is identical with that of the Government. Let him receive the assurance honestly given him, that we are utterly ignorant what the opinion of this Government is on the subject. He cannot do us any injury by the supposition, but it is important that he should not deceive himself and weaken the truth and value of his remarks by assuming that the Government in India has ever taken any interest whatever in our discussion of this financial question. Our Government here is in no subordinate position that it cannot raise the salary of the Master Attendant at the port at Akrah, or even regulate the salaries of its clerks, without the consent of the Home Authorities, who upset its decisions without scruple. This Government is not responsible for the financial condition of the empire, and has therefore no interest whatever in enlisting public writers in the defence of it. Indeed, we believe our London contemporary would feel himself a little surprised, if he had an opportunity of witnessing the feeling of perfect indifference with which the discussion of these general questions by the Press is regarded in official circles. We believe that one paragraph from Cannon Row or Leadenhall Street would carry more weight and create a far deeper impression than three hundred and sixty-five numbers of any journal in Calcutta. When it is seen that the local journals reflect only the individual views, or prejudices, or animosities of their Editors, which is too often the case, the stock carries its own antidote with it in the manifest malice of its spirit, and it is treated with profound contempt. But when the press becomes infected and in truth the organ of the community, as in the demand for police and postal reforms, it succeeds in commanding the attention and the co-operation of Government, and the evils it denounces are removed. But the state of our finances is an English and not a local question, so far as this Government is concerned, and the censure or the praise connected with it, is felt to be interesting only to those who are responsible for it in England. We have taken up the question, not to defend Government, which does not care a straw for the remarks of the *Daily News*, or the explanations of the *Friend*, but because it is one of deep interest, and is better understood at the spot than it is in England.

MR. ALEXANDER MACNAY has been seldom read in address with more grace and unobtrusive plainness than that of Mr. Macnay.

on his introduction to the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. We congratulate that body on the happy choice they have made of an individual for the important investigations they desire to pursue in India, and we are confident that these researches will be conducted in such a spirit as to lead to results beneficial alike to the interests of the Cotton spinners at home and the Cotton growers of India. Mr. Macnay has declared that the object of his mission is not connected with political, but with industrial questions, and he comes to India, not to make out a case against its Government, but to ascertain where it is possible for India to supply England with this staple article. If the obstacles which have hitherto prevented an adequate exportation of Cotton are susceptible of removal, or even of diminution, it will be his duty to point out the mode in which this can be effected; if these obstacles are insuperable, the Manchester manufacturers will at once turn their attention to other countries, which may hold "better prospect of supplying their wants." Why unquestionably owe it to the vast interests connected with the Cotton manufacture, over which they preside, not to continue dependent on one single source of supply, which a hundred causes may interrupt. We have sufficient confidence, moreover, in the honest intentions of Government, to believe that, its members, both in England and in India, will be rejoiced if the result of Mr. Macnay's enquiries should point out the means by which the state can be made instrumental in opening new and profitable markets for the Cotton of India.

**HORSE DAWK.**—The following valuable and important communication regarding the facilities for travelling in the North West Provinces, we have transferred to our editorial column, in the hope that it may attract greater attention.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FRIEND OF INDIA.  
DEAR SIR,—Will you do me the favor to insert in your paper, the accompanying Extract from a letter of the Post Master General, North Western Provinces, on the subject of Horse Dawks for private carriages, as travellers do not appear to be aware of the facilities now afforded by the Government, and the Transit Commissioners, in supplying Post horses at a reasonable rate. Persons travelling from Calcutta to Benares by private carriages drawn by bearers, may have horses supplied at the latter place, and post through the N. W. P. at one-half the expense, and more than double the speed of the old fashioned mode of conveyance.

**Postmasters, February 17, 1861.**  
P. M. I ought not to omit to mention that now-a-days a traveller may sleep for ten consecutive hours, if he likes, without being once disturbed for Business.  
Extract—Letter No. 1911 of 1850-51 from H. B. Riddell, Esq., P. M. G. N. W. P.  
Dated Agra, February 14, 1861.

"Eight annas a mile is charged for a horse for a private carriage, and means passengers may go inside or outside of the carriage.  
A greater number of passengers should not be allowed to start.  
The charge of 8 annas a mile is intended to include all demands, and does not vary whether there be one, two or three Passengers in the carriage."

#### WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20.**  
—We are sorry to notice in the *Explicator*, a report that the Government General has been seriously indisposed. The *Bombay Gazette* states that the Oriental Bank has been robbed of a small summing to some twenty-five thousand rupees. The sum abstracted was in Bank of India notes, and the robbery was committed by one of the bank's clerks, who was detected on Monday morning, he found that they had been abstracted. The loss of this chest was in the hands of the cashier, but the Magistrate and the Police were induced to obtain any trace of the thief.

—We transfer from the Calcutta Journals, that Mr.

Right, the valiant servant, has been refused the use of the Calcutta mounds for his second, by the Bengal Government; doubtless with the intention of his own stating his case more. Mr. Right, however, is determined to succeed, and we see from the *Bombay papers* that Mr. Right is trying to raise a subscription sufficient to induce him to visit Calcutta for the first time on an account. We think Mr. Right cannot do better than proceed forthwith to Bombay, as the *hurry for spring* into the summer of the upper regions, appears to be rather more strongly developed on the Western, than on the Eastern side of the Peninsula.

—Mr. Dempsey, the Superintendent of Police, noticed by the final denial of the former statement by an agent of the Empirical Transit Company, has addressed a second letter to the Calcutta Journals. Mr. Dempsey saw five laden carts belonging to that Company, left on the side of the road near Millapore, with a post in charge of them, and found on enquiry, that the carts had been in the same place for a whole month. Another correspondent of the *Herhars* confirms this statement, and adds, that the bullock drivers had abandoned them for want of pay. We wonder if Mr. McGee will again give the lie to Mr. Dempsey.

—The Bishop of Calcutta was expected at Singapore, on his return to Bengal, on the 26th instant.

—A case of some importance was tried in the Small Causes Court of Calcutta, before the first Judge, on Wednesday, the 19th instant. The case was between a man and a woman, the wife of a horse, sold by him through Messrs. Cook and Co. to the defendant. The latter while acknowledging that he had bought the horse, objected to pay the money, on the ground that the horse was not up to the description, and was absolutely worthless. The plaintiff stated, that he bought the horse at an auction, and without giving a trial, sent it back for resale, giving the same description of the animal as that under which he had himself bought it. He was, however, it appeared, aware that the horse was "gone in the lot." The first Judge said that he was not sure of the fact, but he had been given, there was obviously no intention to defraud, but as the animal did not come up to the description, he must decide in favor of the defendant. If the Judge adheres to this mode of decision, he will render the business of the horse sale in small degree, as a very large proportion of the horses sold in Calcutta, particularly by the native dealers, "do not come up to the description."

—The *Singapore Free Press* publishes some remarkable statements of the loss sustained on the Dutch Government, and the people of Holland, by the custom of selling Java produce on account of the Government, through a body denominated the "West India Company." It appears from a report laid before the Second Chamber of the States General in Holland, that the spices, sugar, tobacco, and other articles, which are sold on account of the Government, are actually sold at a loss, while private merchants were making considerable profits. It is evident, however, that a more liberal spirit has at length been infused into Dutch commerce, with regard to trade in the East, and there is little doubt that this obnoxious institution, which belongs to the principles of the last century, will sooner or later be abolished.

—We have given among our selections, a curious anecdote of the late Bajee Rao, taken from the *Bombay Gazette*. The story is too interesting to be summarized,—this is a most horrible word, almost, if not altogether, he had as "intolerant" but we cannot find a better, and are almost tempted to offer a reward for discovering one—but it is a remarkable proof both of the late Peshwa's wealth and of the high reliance which was then placed on the honor of English merchants.

—From an analysis of the last report of the Students' Literary Institution of Bombay, published in the *Bombay Times*, we perceive that the institution, which was established in the female schools, established by those young ladies, is one hundred and five. As might be expected, the number of female females predominates. The interest taken in these schools, by the high and influential inhabitants of the Island, of both creeds, is said to be on the increase, and no less than Rs. 15,000 have been received, in subscriptions for the maintenance and increase of the schools.

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

—The Supreme Court passed its final decision yesterday in the case of Mr. Anthon, declaring that as the original arrest was illegal, so all subsequent detentions must be considered illegal also, and that Mr. Anthon was consequently entitled to his absolute discharge, and to the small pecuniary compensation for the expenses incurred by Mr. Lawrence Paul, however, stated that he could not of course be responsible for any thing that might be done by the Company's Courts on his quitting the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. There was no objection to the detention of Mr. Anthon, as a person from any of these Courts after the decision of the Queen's Court. He returned immediately to Chanderagore.

—The *Herhars*, who are expected from Singapore with the Admiral and his family, will not, as the *Herhars* states, be brought up to Calcutta on account of her draft of money. She was built in Calcutta at Mr. Ryd's Dock, about thirty years ago.

—The *Shanar* states, that two Commissioners of the district of Bangalore, Sumasse Mohan Chowrie and Kates

























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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**NOTICE OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMERS.**  
"OVERLAND" DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
It is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Rome, and the Intermediate Ports, (London, Civita, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong), intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Orizaba*, will be closed at this Office, on Friday, 7th February, and that an after packet will be despatched, hence, on Saturday, the 8th Inst., with the ordinary Mail, to arrive at London, in time to reach the steamer for arrival at Redgrose, in time to reach the steamer. This public is particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Orizaba* can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

## NOTICE OVERLAND MAIL VIA ROMANY.

The Government of Romany having appointed the 3d of the ensuing Month of April for the departure of the next steamer thence, with a Mail for Sicily, the accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Monday, the 26th instant, and that the first of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Saturday, the 26th Inst.

J. R. BRISTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge,  
Genl. Post Office, 1st March, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donations:

For Mrs. Judson.  
Sent to the *Friend of India*.  
A Friend at Madras, ... .. 100  
Mrs. W. H. Richards, ... .. 50  
E. W. Huggins, Esq., ... .. 10

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Mail of the 26th of January arrived in Calcutta, by the Bombay Express, on Sunday, the 2d instant, in Thirty-seven days from England. Scarcely any events of importance had transpired during the fortnight, almost all parties appearing to await the meeting of Parliament on the 4th of February. The Ministry appear to have kept their intentions, with reference to the Papal aggression, remarkably secret, but they are evidently alarmed, and Lord John Russell is exerting himself personally to call his party together in time for the first debate. It is said, that Lord Clarendon sent in his resignation on learning that the measures contemplated by the Ministry against the new Catholic prelates, would be extended to Ireland. The report is exceedingly doubtful, but it appears certain that there is discord between Lord Grey and the Premier. The cause assigned is a singular one,—the appointment of Mr. McCarty as the Colonial Secretary of Ceylon. Although Mr. McCarty was born and bred a Roman Catholic, and is the nephew of Cardinal Wiseman, yet he is unquestionably one of the very ablest members of the Civil service on the Island, and the fittest man for the post of Secretary. To this office he is fully entitled by his position in the Colonial administration, and it would have been an act of gross injustice to have rejected his just claims to it. If the appointments in our colonies and dependencies are to be decided, not on individual merit, but on the ups and downs of party interest; at home, the sooner we out them and leave them to look after their own concerns, the better. It is unworthy of any one who pretends to the character of a statesman to say that Mr. McCarty was fit to be the officiating Governor of Ceylon, while Dr. Wiseman was only a Bishop, but is unfit even to be Colonial Secretary; now that Dr. Wiseman is a Cardinal.—We may mention incidentally that we have been assured by a gentleman lately arrived from

England, and on the authority of a Romanist Bishop, that Cardinal Wiseman is in possession of a letter in Lord John Russell's hand writing, distinctly stating that he would offer no opposition to the creation of Roman Catholic Bishops. The report may be questionable, but if it should prove correct, Lord John Russell, the justis milieu minister, cannot enjoy a long tenure of power. The Papal aggression will, it is said, be alluded to in the Queen's speech, and we see that the answer to the address will be moved by the Marquis of Eglar, and seconded by Mr. Peio, the organ of the modern Dissenters. Amidst all this agitation, the movement to Rome becomes every day more rapid, though still confined to a peculiar class. Lord Nelson, Lord Norreys, Lord Byron, Sir John Harrington, Bart., the Rev. Sir Frederick Ouseley, Bart., Mr. Francis Ward of the firm of Osbornes, Ward and Co., the "eminent" Solicitors, the Rev. J. H. Woodward, of St. James', Bristol, and Mr. Robert Biddulph Phillips, are among the gentlemen who have gone to Rome, or are packing up for the journey. As yet, as we mentioned last month, not a single Dissenter, nor one member of the middle classes of society, unless educated at the Universities, has succeeded.—The preparations for the Great Exhibition are rapidly advancing, and it is said, that the whole of the Crystal Palace, one of the largest buildings in the world, will have been finished within six months of the time of its commencement. Its cheapness is no less marvellous than its size and rapidity of erection, the entire edifice having been constructed at a cost per cubic foot equal to half the cost, on a corresponding calculation, of an ordinary barn. The number of visitors expected is something enormous, twenty thousand persons having applied for passages by the steamers in America alone; and a project has been set on foot for running a daily packet from New York. The influx of people into London from all countries will not be less than one million, and the questions "where are they to sleep, how are they to get food?" are already asked with some anxiety. We see, however, that private individuals are making extensive arrangements for accommodating thousands at a low rate.—A long list of deaths among the higher ranks is announced. The following are among the most distinguished: the Duke of Newcastle, the Marquis of Northampton, the Marquis of Hastings, a youth of nineteen, Lord Robert Taylor, son of the Marquis of Headfort, the Rev. Lord William Somerset, Lord Burghersh, eldest son of the Earl of Westmoreland, two Ambassadors, Baron Nieumann, and Count de Torre Moncorvo, and lastly, the oldest Field Marshal, Field Marshal Grosvenor, uncle of the Marquis of Westminster.

The Ministerial crisis has ended in France, as almost every crisis does in that country, by increasing the power of the Executive. The new Ministry formed by the President at once dismissed General Changarnier, the idol of the Assembly, and divided his command, General Berengery d' Hilliers receiving charge of the Army of Paris, and another General that of the National Guard. The Assembly, in great irritation, desired to vote thanks to General Changarnier, and to fix its censure on the Ministry. Owing to the clever juggling of M. Thiers,

only the latter vote was carried, and the General has, therefore, been finally dismissed without thanks. The Ministry have, of course, resigned, and another must be formed, but this is not difficult in France, and meanwhile, to use the pithy phrase of the *Times*—"the Assembly has only opposed a phrase to an act."

The only news of importance from central Europe is the fact that the Danish war has terminated; the Stadtholderate of Schleswig-Holstein has been dissolved, and those provinces have again passed under the authority of Denmark. In Prussia, the king is actively engaged in supplying everything that is incomplete in the equipment of the Landwehr, and has held a great festival to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the creation of the kingdom of Prussia in 1701, when the elector of Brandenburg obtained the royal dignity. The affairs of Spain are of so little importance either to Europe or to the world, that we seldom record the "ministerial crisis," and petty intrigues which form the staple history of the Peninsula. We may mention, however, that Narvaez has resigned the Premiership, for the last time, and retired to France.

The most important intelligence from the United States is contained in a few particulars of the census, just taken in that country, and published in the *Athenaeum*. It appears from this document that the city of New York, which in 1820 contained a population of 123,000, now numbers 750,000, and that the population of almost every city in the Union is multiplying in the same astonishing ratio. Should the same rate of increase be continued, New York will in 1880 be larger than London, although this city now contains upwards of two millions and a quarter of inhabitants, more than the whole population of Denmark. The whole of the returns have not yet been published, but it is believed that the population of the States will be found to be about Twenty-five millions, and it is calculated that should her present rate of increase be maintained for fifty years to come, she will contain one hundred and ninety millions of Englishmen. The valley of the Mississippi alone is capable of maintaining a population equal to that of the whole of Europe. To add a shade of the ludicrous to this picture, the Austrian Cabinet has been measuring the States on account of their highly correct conduct in regard to Kosuth. The sentences were rendered in the American Senate with peals of laughter. The next scene in the farce we fancy will be the Ojibweyas sending menacing protocols to Washington. Accounts from California still announce the discovery of new gold districts, and the increasing export of the mineral wealth of that region. Two steamers which started from San Francisco in the month of November had on board four and a half millions of dollars.

The most interesting Indian news of the fortnight is comprised in the fact that a new Company, called the Eastern Steam Navigation Company, has been started, "to afford the public more frequent communication, increased facilities, and greater speed, in the conveyance of mails, passengers, and merchandise, between Europe, India, and China, and to establish similar communication with Australia, Java, and other parts of the East." The capital

is fixed at one million two hundred thousand pounds, in sixty thousand shares of £20 each. The Company is supported by the Austrian Lloyd, which Association has taken a large number of shares, and by other public bodies. It appears likely, as far as we can judge from the report, to be settling in a great line of steamers on foot. The Directors, who include mercantile men well known in England, Bengal, and Australia, besides two representatives of Austrian Lloyd, announce their intention of running a mid monthly mail from Plymouth, to all parts of the East, except from Suez to Bombay, and to compete with the P. and O. Company for the conveyance of the mails. There seems therefore very probability of a real competition being at length established, and that too without American intervention.

#### ADMIRAL AUSTEN AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

—The Naval Commander-in-Chief in the Eastern Seas, has just arrived on a visit to Calcutta in H. M. S. *Hastings*, and has come up the river in the War Steamer *Sphinx*. Sir John Littler sent his Military Secretary to receive him, and the following is the report of Capt. Colbrooke's address to His Excellency as narrated in the *Englishman*:

"Admiral Austen, I am directed by Sir John Littler to express his regret that, owing to his own private residence being under repairs, he cannot offer your Excellency the accommodation he would wish. I am further directed to inform you that Government House in the Fort, being likewise under repairs, cannot be placed at your disposal, and that in consequence of the stringent orders of the Governor General, forbidding Government House at Calcutta, being inhabited by any one save the Governor for the time being, his Honor is prevented offering you the accommodation there, which he otherwise would have had great pleasure in doing."

Though we question whether any reporter was present to take down the speech, we can readily believe in its general authenticity. Sir John Littler has been placed in a very delicate and disagreeable position. His own private residence is under repair. The two public residences of the Head of the Government in Calcutta, are the great House on which Lord Wellesley expended Fourteen lakhs of Rupees of the public money, for which act of magnificence, he was visited with the censure of the Court of Directors, and the Government House in the Fort. The latter is now also under repairs, and the former, after the very unpleasant discussion at the beginning of last year, could not be considered available. Those difficulties were explained to the Admiral, and he proceeded to take up his residence at Spence's Hotel, promising at the same time to accept of Sir John's invitation to Barrenpore in the course of the week. The embarrassment now felt regarding the occupation of the great Government House arose out of a mistake, and the mistake having been completely cleared up, the interdiction will doubtless be removed. This splendid mansion, the largest erected under British auspices in the East, was built for the British Court of the Metropolis, and ought to be the residence of the Head of the Government, upon whom, for the time being, the responsibility of keeping up its hospitalities, rests. He would thus be enabled to provide accommodation for the distinguished guests who visit the seat of Government.

There is of course no manner of doubt that the Naval Commander-in-Chief would have been at once provided with accommodation in the big house, as a matter of courtesy, if Lord Dalhousie had been residing in it. But it must not be forgotten that forty years ago, the Government of Calcutta hired a House for the

accommodation of the officers in her Majesty's Naval service, which was usually designated from that circumstance, the Admiralty House. It has been for some years rented by Mr. Halliday. When the Admiralty House was relinquished, it was arranged that suitable home rent should be available for His Excellency whenever he visited the Metropolis. This circumstance, which is not, perhaps, generally known, may serve to mitigate the severity of the censure which the present event has given birth to.

**THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S TRAVELLING CHARGES.**—The *Englishman* last week, published a statement of the annual travelling charges of the Governor General for the last six years, thus:

1845-46	...	Co's. Rs.	750,000
1846-47	...	...	461,000
1847-48	...	...	273,000
1848-49	...	...	408,000
1849-50	...	...	550,000
1850-51	...	...	400,000

"The first year includes presents made to Native princes, &c."

This appears to be in excess of that which, as far as published records exhibit, has hitherto been the scale of expense incurred under this head. Mr. Warren Hastings's travelling expenditure was generally estimated at 1000 Rs. a day, or about 890,000 Rs. a year. In the celebrated draft dispatch which the Court of Directors wrote to Lord Wellesley, on the 24 of April, 1805, and in which they recapitulated all the irregularities, misdemeanors, and extravagances by which he had incurred their wrath and indignation, they state: "Among other articles of the Durbur Accounts of the year 1802-3, that have contributed to the increase of expense, we find no less a sum than Rs. 261,000 charged for the Governor General's visit to the Upper Provinces; near 50,000 Rs. for the Governor General's gardens at Barrenpore, and Rs. 28,000 for fireworks and illuminations on account of the peace in Europe." This letter was cancelled by the Board of Control, and another substituted for it from which all allusion to the question of expenditure was omitted. But the sum which then appeared to call for the disavowment of the Court, has been exceeded by Lord Wellesley's successors, without apparently exciting any attention whatever. The Governor General's present visit to the Punjab may possibly entail a larger expenditure than the estimate quoted above,—four lakhs—but the important and beneficial results which may be expected from this tour of inspection by the Head of the Government, through our newly acquired territories, will more than compensate for the cost it may involve. The annual income now derived from the whole of the Punjab territories, exceeds two Crores of Rupees, or Two Millions Sterling. It is understood that all the arrangements for the settlement of this Kingdom, and for the organisation of its institutions and its administration, have been made under the immediate control of the Governor General himself. To this important duty has his Lordship's attention been so exclusively confined, that he has had little leisure for looking after the old provinces of the empire. But in exact proportion as we,—and above all the Rail—have lost by this arrangement, the Punjab has been a gainer. What has been done there, has been done well. None of the territories heretofore incorporated with our dominions have been so rapidly or so completely brought into order. In none have our arrangements been matured so early as pre-

ced, or produced the same advantageous results both to the people and to our own exchequer; in no case have such vigorous measures been pursued for the development of its natural resources. We have made more and better progress in settling the Punjab in two years, than was made in Bengal in twenty. The visit of the Governor General to the various portions of this extensive principality, and his Lordship's personal examination of the nature and operation of the institutions which have been established in it, and of the proposed roads, bridges, canals and entonnments, is a matter of the highest importance, and it would exhibit a very short-sighted and injudicious parsimony of disposition to begrudge any portion of the expenditure which it may involve.

#### THE TRAVELS OF THE YOUNG CHIEF OF IS.

DORH have excited some interest, and, in the minds of the uninformed, have created some evil surmising. But his return to his own Court, not only unquipped, but improved in mind and body, will, at once, dispel every cause of anxiety and alarm. During the last few seasons, young Holkar expressed a strong desire to visit Agra, Delhi, Hurdwar, and other places. He had seen Prince Waldemar and others travelling as private gentlemen, without any state, and he wanted to make up a party of his own with his preceptor, and two or three friends, for a similar object. The Resident, Mr. Hamilton, thought it would be beneficial to the young Chief to see his own country, and to travel through the Upper Provinces, and visit whatever they presented of interest, and therefore gave every encouragement to his wishes. The Governor General also expressed his satisfaction at the plan, and thought it would serve to expand his mind. The great object of the Prince was to keep his departure and his travels a secret, because, if it had been known when and where he was going, he might have been subjected to much inconvenience. Every arrangement having therefore been completed, he left his camp at Rampoorh, the nearest point to Kotah in the Holkar dominions, and proceeded on his travels in strict incognito. The party consisted altogether of fourteen persons, under the guidance and direction of his preceptor, Omeid Sing, who had letters of introduction and full instructions from the Resident. The young Maharajah had with him his own brother, two of his class fellows, one or two personal friends, and some attendants. They rode by way of Kotah to Bhurtpore, then to Agra, where they saw every thing which was to be seen, and thence onwards to Muttra, Meerut, Saharunpur, Hurdwar, and Roorkie, and carefully inspected all the wonders of that rising establishment. At Delhi, the Chief visited the College, and then proceeded to Ajmere, and Jeypore, and back to his own Court. He was nowhere recognised, and he has thus performed a long tour, in true Maharrata fashion, on horseback, with a light camp; he has seen every thing at these various stations calculated to interest him, and he has been enraptured with his journey. He has set the young princes of India the example of travelling without a pompous train of elephants and cavalry and infantry, and with the sole desire of seeing what was to be seen. He has imbibed new and more expanded ideas, which he will probably be able to turn to account when he assumes the responsibility of governing his own subjects. It is very much to be wished, indeed, that the young prince of India, who will, ere long, have the welfare of a large population entrusted to him,

could be induced not only to travel through India but also to pay a visit to England, and to the Queen and Parliament, and the misanthropic resources of the country which now rules in East. The voyage is now directed of the formidable discomforts of a four months' detention in a hoard vessel, and may be accomplished within a month from the port of Bombay, and being Behadur has shown, that even a right Hindu may visit the land of the unclean without any loss of religious purity or privileges.

**THE INDIA GENERAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.**—The adjourned half yearly General Meeting of this Company took place on Friday, 28th of February, and was attended by about thirty shareholders. Mr. Hume, the chairman of the Company, being unable to attend from a recent domestic affliction, Mr. Judge, one of the Directors, took the chair. The report of the Directors was quite glowing in its details of financial property; the profits for the half year being declared to be Rs. 60,818, sum equivalent to Eleven and a quarter per cent. on the Capital of the Company. The Directors have made arrangements for the purchase of coal at a cheaper rate; the Association has no debts, and all the boats are in good working order, with the exception of the *Assam*, which will require an expenditure of some Nine hundred rupees for repairs. Another sum of Rs. 18,000 remains to be paid for the property at Garden Reach, in the purchase of which the Directors have been delayed by unavoidable circumstances. Two new Steamers, the *Sally Threlwell*, and the *James Hume*, have been launched during the six months, and the rest of the cargo lists is nearly ready, while all these works and the other business of the Depot, are being carried on out of the current earnings of the Steamers. It will at once be conceded that his account is much more gratifying than the one published at the last half yearly Meeting held on the 14th September 1860, when a loss of the operations of the previous six months of Rs. 18,000 was acknowledged in the Report. As far as we can judge from the figures before us the profits have been fairly obtained, by an increase in the amount of freight. The following short table exhibits the source of this prosperity:

Expenditure in six months, ending June, 1860,	Rs. 110,496
Expenditure in six months, ending 30th December, 1860,	180,385

Source of expenditure,	Rs. 19,800
Receipts for six months, ending 30th June,	96,824
Receipts for six months, ending 30th Dec.,	1,91,226

Source of receipts,

Rs. 97,830

There has therefore been a real increase of profitable business to the extent of Rs. 77,940, and the apparent increase of expenditure must be attributed to the increased number of boats employed. The Directors, however, even with his real profits in their hands, advise the shareholders not to call for a dividend, as, "to command a supply of coal at the cheapest rates, it is necessary that they should be prepared to go into the market with money rather than work on credit." The Directors might have added that the Company has previously lost Rs. 871,378 which must be made up, and that the Report does not allow any thing for the wear and tear of the vessels and their equipments. In the account of their assets published in the *Observer*, the "black" as it is called, is valued at Rs. 1,82,260, but the "black" is only worth what it will fetch, and we very much question whether there is any probability of its realising in the market the same sum that appears on the

We must now pass on to the Meeting at which these accounts were considered, and which, like almost all the meetings of this Company, since the ill-fated day when Directors had only to promise, and shareholders to believe, was of rather a stormy character. A portion of the shareholders felt themselves aggrieved at not having had time to examine the accounts, and said so with a very unpolite pertinacity. They contended that they were not had time to read accounts which they had not had time to read, much less understand, and a motion was brought forward to appoint a Committee of five gentlemen to inspect the accounts previous to passing them, and, as Major Anderson naively said, "quietly to argue them with the Directors." It would not do, however; the Chairman declared that such a proceeding involved an imputation on Chairman, Directors, and Auditors, and the Shareholders must pass the accounts before they proceeded to any other business. The Meeting gave way, and the accounts were passed. We must confess, we do not see what possible objection the Directors could have to the appointment of the five gentlemen, as their report, if unfavourable, would have enabled the shareholders to take some decisive step, and if favourable, would have placed the Company in a much higher position than it at present holds. When this knotty point was settled, the resignations of Mr. Harrison, the Secretary, and of Mr. Hume, the Chairman, were formally announced, and the Meeting proceeded to discuss four separate propositions.

1st. That the partnership be dissolved.—*Rejected.*

2nd. That the Secretary be prohibited from private trade.—*Carried.*

3rd. That every holder of ten shares, when he vacates, be pro tem. a Director.—*Rejected.*

4th. That a committee of five shareholders, three of them unconnected with the present management, be appointed to inspect the accounts of the Company.—*Rejected by a majority of four.*

After some further discussion as to the appointment of a Secretary, the Meeting closed its sitting.

**REGIMENTAL MEMBERS.**—The Adjutant General of the Army has just issued a circular to the officers commanding Regiments, requesting their opinion as to the propriety of making the establishment of a mess in every Regiment compulsory. This communication will be found among our selections. The subject has been taken up earnestly by the press, and has occasioned great diversity of opinion, some of our contemporaries having given their vote in favour of this measure. While others consider that it would seriously interfere with those habits of economy, which it is so necessary to promote. The analogy adduced of the Queen's Regiments, in which the mess is an integral part of the establishment of a corps, will not hold good in this country. The Royal Regiments contain a larger number of officers than those of the Company, and they are more closely congregated at the Head Quarters of the Regiment. The number of contributors to the Mess is consequently much greater, and the expense of the establishment presses less heavily on each individual. Take for example the 75th and the 87th Regiments of Foot, and the 7th and the 28th Regiments of Native Infantry. In the two former we have respectively forty-three and thirty-four officers present with the corps, and the Mess masters strong.—We draw our data from the last number of the *Army List*.—In the two Com-

pany's corps there appear to be only eleven officers in the first, and twelve in the second, present with the Regiment. The natural consequence of this diversity of circumstances is, that, although the messes in the Queen's corps may be kept up on a more expensive scale, their resources are much greater, and the individual pressure much less; while even the most economical scale of expenditure in the Company's corps, would still leave a larger sum to be made good by each member.

But the messes in the Company's corps are not generally conducted, as far as our experience goes, upon an economical footing. There are doubtless messes under the direction of a judicious Committee of officers, gifted with economical habits, and enjoying an intimate knowledge of the domestic commissariat, in which the expenditure is rigidly kept within a manageable limit, and all extravagance is eschewed, and all debt most sacredly avoided; but we fear that this will be found to be the exception rather than the rule. The natural tendency of a mess, in which a number of gentlemen are associated in one body, is to create a feeling of anxiety to maintain its character and reputation, and this can be effected only by a scale of expenditure which appears to us disproportionate to the means of subalterns. The expense of a mess is generally regulated, at least such is the natural order of things, by the income of those officers of superior grade and allowances who may be members of it, and the expenditure therefore falls, proportionately, with much severity on the purses of the junior grade. Generally speaking, we should say that, there are few subaltern officers who can keep their expenditure within their limited income, and avoid the inconveniences of debt, if they are subjected to the expenses of a mess. It would, of course, be impossible for the Commander-in-Chief to establish such a supervision of the expenditure of a mess, as might restrict it to the means of those whom it will most seriously affect; because this would be to introduce a summary inquiry, utterly intolerable. It would, therefore, be an act of inconsistency to make the establishment of a mess compulsory, and to constrain every officer to join it, at the same time that the Head of Army inculcated the utmost prudence on the officers and rebuked the contraction of debt. It is, we believe, unquestionable, that three or four subalterns even at the more expensive stations, may club together, and live cheaper than they could do as a mess, and if they are to be censured for getting into embarrassments they must be left at liberty to regulate their own expenditure, on the most economical scale. Neither is the supposed benefit of being associated at the mess table so great as to preteminate over the pecuniary considerations which the system involves. The Circular Order of the Adjutant General alludes to the "respectability" which messes are supposed to give to a corps, but this respectability may be bought at too dear a rate, and the most respectable position a regiment can attain is that which grows out of the pecuniary independence of its members. There are also inconveniences attending this aim at respectability which should not be lost sight of. We have known instances in which this form of regimental association has proved positively detrimental to the interests of the junior officers, and induced habits destructive of their future comfort. We consider it the duty of the Commanding officer to bring his officers together, occasionally, periodically, around his own hospitable board, and thus to compose differences, and to promote a happy community, if not also





— The *Bombay Times* says, that a gold coin from California has been seen in the bazaar at Sawant Warree, and was said to have arrived by way of Mooltan. Our contemporary remarks that it must have had "as strange a tour of duty as can well be imagined," but we think it more

[illegible]





















NEW ORIENTAL LIFE INSURANCE  
COMPANY.

**Capital.**—500 Shares of Rupees 1,000 each.  
**Directors.**—A. Galstin, A. Chalmers, J. Jenkins, R. S. Thomson, W. Anderson, H. McEwen, Esqrs., and Baboo Sishunder Mullick.  
**Medical Examiner.**—W. B. O'Shaughnessy, Esq.  
**Secretary and Agent.**—W. F. Ferguson, Esq.  
**Treasurer.**—Bank of Bengal.

COPIES of Rules, Certificates, and Tables of reduced rates, may be had on application to the Secretary and Agent, who will be happy to undertake the management of the details for effecting insurance and renewing policies, free of commission, provided he is kept in funds. The Insurance Company continues to grant to holders of Policies in the seven years' class the privilege, of declining at the end of six years from the date of the Policy, a new one for the like amount for a further term of years, or for life, on surrender of the original Policy, without requiring fresh evidence of health, and to ensure such a new issue in the case of males, a provision to contributors of premium on Policies of any class who are likewise shareholders.

It also, for a period of three years from 1st Nov., 1848, makes a return of 10 per cent. on all premiums paid by any Insurer on any policy, and a similar bonus will therefore be continued, should the operations of the Society warrant the same.

Parties insured for the whole term of life, on becoming permanent residents in Great Britain will be entitled to a deduction of 20 per cent. on the premium which their policies entitle them to, provided they have already paid five years' premiums at Indian rates, such reduction to include all other entries.

The Policies of the New Oriental Life Insurance Company permit Residence in any part of the World, except the *Netherlands*—do not require proof of interest—may be transferred by simple endorsement and registry—and are *INDESTRUCTIBLE*, except on the ground of fraud.

During the last eight years the Company has paid Policies on lapsed lives to the amount of: Co.'s Ea. 2,10,825 and holds a Reserve Fund duly invested equal to one and a half year's losses on the average of a series of years of the whole amount of Policies existing.

W. F. FERGUSON,  
Secretary and Accountant.

Calcutta, November, 1880.

**R.** TODD AND JAMES'S esteemed WINES for Sale  
at the Godowns of COLVIE, AINSLIE, COWIE and  
Co. viz.

Brown Sherry, ... ..	Co.'s Rs. 26 per dozen.
Pale Sherry, ... ..	" 24 "
Port Wine, ... ..	" 22 "
Light Bordeaux Claret, ... ..	" 18 "

Calcutta, 2d November, 1849.

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For List of Prices—drawings and further particulars  
Apply to the **OVERSEER,**  
*Jubbulpore Garrison School of Industry.*

UNIVERSAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.  
*Established in London and Calcutta, 1834.*

**A** MOUNT of Invested Capital £500,000, of which 30 Lakhs of rupees are invested in India, in Company Paper and on Mortgage of Landed Property situated in Calcutta, and held by the Indian Branch.

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The principle adopted by the Universal Life Assurance Society of an annual Valuation of Assets and Liabilities

and a division of three-fourths of the Profits among the Assured is admitted to offer great advantages, especially to those parties who may wish to appropriate their proportion of profit to the reduction of future premiums.

sion of Profits as declared on the 9th May, 1848, which is equivalent to 42½ per Cent. on the current Annual Premium of Policies entitled to participation, and on which Policies six complete annual, or twelve half-yearly Premiums

	<i>Date of Bill</i>	<i>Sum received</i>	<i>Original Premium</i>	<i>Reduction. Annual</i>	<i>Reduced Annual</i>
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1974	1974				

Age	Rate	10 Years.		20 Years.		Premium	
		Co's Ra.	Co's Ra.	Co's Ra.	Co's Ra.		
20	On or	10,000	420	178 8	241 8		
30	On or	10,000	480	204 0	276 0		

40 before	10,000	590	250 12	339 4
50 9th May,	10,000	740	314 8	425 8
60 1844.	10,000	1050	437 12	592 4

Separate tables for assurance without participation in profits have been adopted for whole life at reduced rates.

for such persons as may prefer a lower rate of premium participation in the general profits.

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# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

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SERAMPORE: THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1851.

{ Price 5 Cts. 25. monthly or 10  
Rs. yearly (if paid in advance.)

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

### EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.

THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 31<sup>st</sup> of the coming Month of April for the departure of the next steamer thence, with a Mail for Suez—Notice, accordingly is hereby given, for general information and the latest safe date, the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Monday, the 24<sup>th</sup> instant, and that the first set of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> instant.

J. B. DUNSTON BENTLEY,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, 14 March, 1851.

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PUNJAB AND BENGAL.**—The *Englishman* in commenting on our remarks regarding the tour of inspection in the Punjab on which the Governor General is now engaged, says; "the *Friend* anticipates important and beneficial results from this tour of inspection by the Head of the Government, which will more than compensate the cost. More and better progress, he adds, has been made in two years in settling the Punjab, than in Bengal in twenty. This is probable, because the British Indian Government has more experience and far more effective establishments, than when Bengal was acquired. The comparison is totally unjust, and the proper question is, whether Sir Henry Lawrence could not have settled the Punjab quite as well without the Governor General's presence, had he been allowed to take his own course, and not been thwarted and interfered with at every turn." These remarks seem to have little bearing on our statement, and we might easily allow them to pass without any comment, but we are desirous of availing ourselves of the opportunity they afford to offer a word or two of explanation.

What we stated was a simple fact, that more progress had been made in settling the Punjab in two years than had been made in Bengal in twenty, and the causes which our contemporary has assigned for this difference, to which we in part subscribe, do not in the smallest degree invalidate the fact. Our comparison is not therefore unfair. We fully admit that if Government had not been in possession of greater experience, and more efficient establishments, the settlement of the Punjab would not have been so rapid, or so effective. But although we have a still more perfect experience in Bengal, and our establishments are, individually, more effective, it cannot be said that the same progressive improvement is made in the administration of this province, which the Punjab exhibits. Whether the comparison be invidious or not, we are still justified in asserting that the contrast between the result of the administration in the two provinces, is most striking. We attribute this to two causes; to the concentrated energy of an experienced and intelligent Board of Administration at Lahore, with an object of great and laudable ambition before them, and to the superlative advantage they enjoy in the facility of reference to the Head of the Government. Point this: they can at once obtain a definite and final sanction for all the measures of improvement they may propose, and they can do so through the least of our establishments. In Bengal, on the other hand, the Government is divided into a number of departments, each of which has its own sphere of action, and each of which is responsible to the Governor General. The result is, that the Governor General is not able to give the same prompt and decisive sanction to the measures of improvement as he is able to give in the Punjab.

Board, who may be said to act under the immediate eye of the Governor General himself, and his Lordship is enabled at once to direct them to be carried into effect. Lord Dalhousie may indeed be said to have adopted the Punjab as his own peculiar province, to the improvement of which his attention is as closely, and to a certain extent, as exclusively devoted, as that of the Lieutenant Governor is to the North West Provinces. It is this cordial and immediate co-operation of the working Board and the Head of the Government, which has produced such rapid and beneficial results.

The *Englishman* is beside the mark in stating that the proper question is "whether Sir Henry Lawrence could not have settled the Punjab quite as well without the Governor General's presence." The Punjab has been settled without the Governor General's presence. The object of his Lordship's tour is to examine the nature of the settlement which has been already made, the various institutions which have been established, and the plans of improvement which have been proposed or commenced. His tour will be beneficial by strengthening the hands of the Board, and giving the impulse of his own personal approbation and encouragement to their plans. And when it is remembered that they involve an expenditure exceeding a million sterling, it will be at once seen that the visit of the Governor General was a matter of great import, and that it is likely to be attended with beneficial results. But, independently of these important and expensive works, which will render the acquisition of this kingdom so memorable in our annals, the tour of inspection thus undertaken by the Head of the Government, in company with a member of the Board, cannot fail to produce a very salutary effect on the administration generally. The great mistake we have hitherto made in the management of this country, is that of supposing that the Government can be efficiently and advantageously conducted by reports and orders, without personal and local enquiry. When the individual in whom the responsibility of the Government centres remains stationary at his desk, however zealous, or defatigable his exertions, he can only see through the spectacles of others, which are made to magnify or diminish according to the view of the officer who supplies them, and they are apt to represent men and things in any thing but their true light. A Governor will always be able to see more into the state of a district, and to form a more accurate opinion of the vices or virtues of its administration, and a better estimate of its wants, in ten days, than he can obtain in ten months, from reams of paper in the official atmosphere of Downing Street. It is this annual tour of inspection, which has imparted such a spirit of vigor and improvement to the Government of the North West Provinces. Notwithstanding all Mr. Thomason's official experience, and his knowledge of every creek and cranny of the administration, and of every office and officer under him, yet, without this annual tour of inspection, his Government would lose half its value. It is such a system which we require for the Lower Provinces.

At the period of the last Charter, the wisdom of Parliament stamped the Presidency of Fort William into two divisions, the North-West and the South-West. The North-West was placed under the immediate eye of the Governor General, and the South-West was placed under the immediate eye of the Lieutenant Governor.

under two different systems of administration. The charge of the North-West Provinces, was entrusted to a Lieutenant Governor chosen by the Governor General, from among the covenanted servants of Government of ten years' standing; and his duties were limited to the internal administration of those provinces in every department. The Government of Bengal was placed in the hands of the Governor General without a Council, and, in his absence, of one of the members of Council. As the Governors General have generally been absent in the North-West during the greater portion of their incumbency, and the system of absence is now acquiring the force and permanence of prescription, the administration of Bengal, with a revenue double that of the North-West, has fallen to the lot of the Senior member of Council. The result of the experiment has been as suspicious in the one case, as it has been mortifying in the other. Under the system which prevails down here, the Government of Bengal is subjected to all the mutations of Council, and we have had no fewer than ten successive Governors in sixteen years. A seat in Council, like a seat at the Medical Board, is sometimes given, as in the case of Sir Walter Gilbert, as a reward for past services, with little reference to future duties. Then again, the Deputy Governor of Bengal is also burdened with the Presidency of the Council of India, and an officer whose whole time would be barely sufficient for the management of the Government of Bengal, extending as it does from Singapore to Sumblupore, and embracing as it does, a revenue of ten Millions sterling, and a population of Thirty Millions, has his time curtailed by the pressure of other duties. Above all, the necessity of opening weekly in Council, officially prevents an annual tour through the districts, and without this all hopes of good government must be utterly futile. It will be one of the first and most imperative duties of the Parliamentary Committee to institute the most searching enquiry into the operation and the results of the two experiments which were set up by the last Charter, and to recommend the substitution of that which has been found so successful, for that which has proved so manifest a failure. But if nothing farther be done, we must at least have the Governorship of Bengal disjoined from the Government of India, and the Governor absolved from the necessity of attending Council every week, and left at liberty to visit every district under him, once in two or three years.

### THE STAMPS OF LETTERS, AND THE JOB.—The following paragraph appeared in the *Englishman* of the 5<sup>th</sup> instant.

"We hear that the Post Office Commissioners have decided upon the use of colored stamps for letters, the stamps to change colour with each step in the rate of postage. And we suppose that the Commissioners are of the opinion that the Government blushes for charging so much. It is intended, we learn, upon the strength of the proposed change to cut out a job for the Birmingham paper manufacturer, which is to have the manufacturing of the colored paper. Why not throw open the contract? We will engage for the English manufacturer that they will do the work as cheap as it can be done any where, and we have yet to learn that colored papers can be made in bulk of the same quality and appearance as the European."

The statement thus put forth by our contemporary amounted to a feeling, not only of superiority, but of scorn. As far as the views of the

Post Office Commissioners have transpired, it was understood to be their intention to propose a uniform stamp of one anna, for letters of a given weight, without reference to distance. Such has been the impression on the minds of all our contemporaries; such is the general expectation of the community, and it occasioned no small uneasiness to be told by one of the journals at the seat of Government, that the Commissioners contemplated a modification of this scheme, and desired to propose a graduation of stamps according to the distance. We have made every enquiry within our reach, and we are happy to state that there does not appear to be any foundation whatever for the assertion of the *Englishman*. Of course, letters of double the standard weight, will be chargeable, as in England, with double postage. If different stamps should be used on this principle, it is not improbable that the same practice which prevails in England may be adopted in India,—that is, that the single stamp may be on paper of one color, and a double stamp on that of a different color, and so on, for the purpose of being most easily distinguished.

As to the idea of a job in the manufacture of the paper required for the stamps, it certainly does great credit to that fertility of invention, for which the *Englishman* is required to high a reputation, but very little indeed to his discernment. It is not only a gratuitous but a ridiculous assertion. Why, the paper required for all the stamps at this Presidency for a twelvemonth, even if they amounted to Ten Millions, could not afford work for a single day to a paper mill. The necessity of throwing open to the competition of all the Paper manufacturers in England, a contract for the supply of an article of the annual value of £50 or even 1000, sterling, to prevent a Job. Bah!

**JUNG BAHADOOR, AND HIS HOSPITALITY.**—We had occasion a few weeks ago, to correct a mistaken account of Jung Bahadoor's loss of power published in the *Englishman*, and our contemporary acknowledged his error, but declared that instead of Jung Bahadoor wanting the power to entertain his guests, he wanted the will. Our contemporary has, however, been misled in this statement also. The following may be relied on, as an accurate narrative of the circumstances which prevented Jung Bahadoor from entertaining Lord Grosvenor and his party, with the hospitality he would have wished. Jung Bahadoor, in his progress homewards, had intended to reach Segowlee by the 20th January, but he was detained for some days at Bonaure, by causes over which he had no control. He wrote, therefore, to Lord Grosvenor, who was at Patna, stating that although he had marched as rapidly as possible, he could not expect to reach Segowlee before the 27th of January. As a proof of the accuracy of the first part of this assertion, we may mention that the Minister, though delayed by heavy rains, and encountered by a camp of Four thousand men, marched every day from eighteen to twenty miles, and crossed two large rivers in one day, without a halt. The camp marched into Segowlee on the appointed day, and there received intelligence that Lord Grosvenor and his party had gone on to Katmandoo, not having time to await Jung Bahadoor's approach; but it was expected that he would return in time to meet the Minister at Biscewlee, the well known hunting ground. The Nepalese camp, accordingly, pushed on to that village, which is on the verge of the great forest, and after remaining there two days, received intelligence that Lord Grosvenor had gone to meet the British Resident, and was coming down in company with him. In the course of the next day, information was received from the Resident, which led Jung Bahadoor to believe that Lord Grosvenor would reach Nitundah on the 3rd of February, and on that day, therefore, the arrangements were made for a grand "shikar," and the elephants were despatched to the various passes. On the morning of the 3rd, however, although neither Lord Grosvenor, nor the Resident made their appearance, it was too late to postpone the sport, as the wild elephants had been driven down to the passes, where they would break cover, and might escape at any moment. Jung was, notwithstanding, so fully convinced that the party would shortly join him, and was so anxious to perform the duties of hospitality, that he left an officer with elephants and howdahs to meet them. But on returning from the hunt, it was found that Lord Grosvenor had not yet arrived, and the camp therefore was pushed on to within a few miles of Katmandoo. On the road, they met Lord Grosvenor, who expressed his regret that he had been delayed, but intimated no wish to remain longer in the Terai. To provide him with elephants for his journey at that moment was absolutely impossible, as the animals had been dispersed in all directions, and the two or three which remained, were scarcely sufficient to enable the Minister to reach Katmandoo. Neither Jung Bahadoor nor Lord Grosvenor had been able to gain the smallest intelligence of each other's movements after the departure from Segowlee, and the latter neglected to leave a note at that town to inform the Minister of his intended route. Had he done so, he would have received every assistance which it was in the power of Jung Bahadoor to afford, as the latter manifested the greatest anxiety to render his distinguished guest's visit to Nepal a pleasant one. The story of Lord Grosvenor having been compelled to seek the hospitality of Mr. Brakine, is apocryphal, as every possible attention was paid him at Katmandoo, and he only went to the Residence, because no human being but a Nepalese could relish a Nepalese cuisine.

Jung Bahadoor has, it is said, determined not to execute any of the Sirind, who so lately endeavored to assassinate him, and has peremptorily refused to have them blinded, a punishment for which both the Army and the Maharajah were clamorous.

**TRANSMISSION OF PAMPHLETS AND BOOKS FROM ENGLAND TO INDIA.**—The *Bombay Times* complains of the great delay in the delivery of the pamphlets, periodical publications, and books, which are brought to the Port by the Steamers. We regret to say that the same cause of complaint exists in Calcutta, and to the same extent. All printed works are admitted into the country duty free, and there can therefore be no reason for procrastination in passing them through the Custom House. Yet the delays are so serious as to give us fair ground for remonstrance. Our publications are often nearly as long in their passage from the Steamer to their destination in Calcutta, as the Steamer is in her voyage from Madras to the Sand Head. If the vessel, for instance, comes to her anchorage at Garden Reach, at five in the afternoon, the packages are rarely in the hands of the booksellers before sunset of the third day. It requires two days to overcome the active and the passive resistance which they are destined to encounter after their arrival in the Port.

There is every reason, however, to hope that these disappointments will be long gone, and that the next seasonally sailing steamer

the delivery of letters will be extended to periodical publications and pamphlets. The London correspondent of the *Bombay Times*, writing on the 24th of January last, says "The book post, so useful here, is shortly to be extended to the colonies. After the 1st of March, any work may be sent from any part of the United Kingdom to any part of the British West Indies, Newfoundland, Gibraltar, Malta, and Hong-Kong, or vice versa. The rates are as follow:—not exceeding half a pound in weight, 6d.; a pound, 1s.; two pounds, 2 shillings, &c.,—prepayment being compulsory. The extension of this boon to India and Canada, will probably follow ere long; it only requires, I believe, the sanction of the Supreme Government of the former, and of the legislature of the latter, to bring the system into immediate operation." The writer is correct in his conjecture. The subject has been already submitted by the Home Authorities to the Government of India, and has received all that attention which its importance deserves. The object of the Government of England is to transmit pamphlets and books by the Steamers to the various ports of India, through the agency of the Post Office, at a titrated rate, and thus to render Postal communication the instrument of more extensive benefit to the public residing in this dependency. A copy of Blackwood would thus be charged four annas for its transmission to Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, a volume of Bohn, or a number of the Quarterly, or Edinburgh, eight annas. The correspondent of the *Bombay Times* speaks of the transmission of pamphlets and books to any part of the West Indies, and it must be manifest that to complete the boon in India, a single and uniform payment in London, must embrace the conveyance of the work to any part of India. The plan submitted to this Government, and which is now under consideration, embraces this object also. But when our farthest station at this Presidency is nearly fifteen hundred miles from the Port, it must be manifest that there are greater obstacles to the execution of the project in this country than in others; and yet, unless the sum paid in London franks the pamphlet to its remotest destination, the benefit of the arrangement will be in no small degree curtailed. Another question will naturally arise:—is the conveyance of this cargo of books and pamphlets through the Post Office to form the ground of a fresh bonus to the Steam Company, or is to be included in the sum now paid? It is quite possible that under the existing circumstances of the contract, it may be necessary to make an additional allowance for this increase of freight, but there can be little question that whenever the period arrives for the renewal of the contract, or for the formation of a new one, more especially if the present attempt at competition should be pursued, an effort will be made to include the cost of conveying these Post Office packages, like the mails, in the annual donation, and by thus increasing the Post Office revenue, to lighten the pressure on the national funds.

**THE EASTERN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.**—We alluded in our Overland Summary last week, to the establishment of this new Steam Navigation Company, but so important an undertaking, and one which promises so many advantages to Indian residents, deserves a more extended notice. The real cause of the establishment of this Company appears to have been the enormous profits declared by the P&O. and Oriental Companies for the last two or three years, and which shortly manifested that there was room for at least one more



Narayan Ramchunder, anxious to recover possession of his child, instituted a suit against his wife before the Principal Sudder Ameen. That officer decreed that "in the absence of any Act of Parliament, Regulation of Government, or usage of the country, that could be applied to the case, and in the absence also of any *specific law* bearing on it in the Shaster, the law of the Defendant, it must be determined according to justice, equity, and good conscience." The Principal Sudder Ameen formed his decision on this principle, and declared that the Plaintiff by adopting Christianity "*had committed no act that rendered him morally unfit for the exercise of the natural right of the father to the guardianship of the child,*" and decreed the case in his favour. The mother of the boy, as might have been expected, was not satisfied with this decision, and appealed the case to the Judge of Ahmednuggur. That gentleman, Mr. Woodcock, we believe, being "either more deeply versed in the peculiarities of Hindoo ecclesiastical law, or not setting quite so much store by the legal dictates of "justice, equity, and good conscience," as his Principal Sudder Ameen, decided that, according to the Shaster, "A Brahmin renouncing his religion becomes an outcast, and resigns and forfeits all his civil rights, comprising the guardianship of his children lawfully begotten prior to such renunciation." The child was therefore given back to his Hindoo mother; but fortunately the question was not allowed to rest here. The father, Narayan Ramchunder, appealed the case to the Sudder Court at Bombay, and in the mean time, Act XXI. of 1850, the much abused Lex Loc, had become Law. The sitting Judge, Mr. F. W. L'Eguy, therefore, recorded the following minute, which sets the question finally at rest, and will be gratefully remembered, as the first application in Bombay of the great law of religious freedom. "Since the Decree now appealed against was passed, Act XXI. of 1850 has become the law of the land. This law clearly provides that any law or usage, that inflicts on any person, forfeiture of rights or property by reason of his or her renouncing the communion of any religion, or being deprived of caste, shall cease to be enforced as law. This being so, it appears to me, that the special appellant under the existing law, cannot be debarred from exercising the rights of a parent over his infant child, by reason of his renunciation of the Hindoo religion, but on the contrary, is entitled to all the natural rights and privileges of a parent." We do not blame the Judge of Ahmednuggur for his decision, which was not only far more accurate than that of his Principal Sudder Ameen, but as far as the Judge was concerned, more in accordance with his duty, as his office is to interpret, not make the law. But we desire to call the attention of all our readers to the fact, that before the passing of Act XXI. of 1850, a Judge in Madras or Bombay was compelled by law to deprive a father of his natural right to the possession of his child, merely because that father had quitted one creed to embrace another. The fact that Narayan Ramchunder had proved his sincere faith in a new and excellent creed, by abandoning caste, friendship, and every tie that bound him to his countrymen, would not only have stripped him of his property, but even of the guardianship of his children. The Hindoos have been accustomed to memorize the Home Authorities for the repeal of the Lex Loc: They have done their duty as good and orthodox Hindoos. They are anxious to restore one of the most unquestionable and most important parts of their creed. But the

Statesmen and Senators they address will not fail to bear in mind that but for this Act, the British Government in India would have been exposed to the contempt and indignation of the civilised world in the middle of the Nineteenth century, by sanctioning a legal decree which condemned a Native to the loss of his children, because he had embraced Christianity and thus become an outcast.

#### VERNACULAR EDUCATION AND LITERATURE.

—We take great shame to ourselves for having neglected to assist in the discussions to which the establishment of the Vernacular Literary Committee have recently given rise, and we shall lose no time in endeavoring to make up for our neglect. On the present occasion, we have the pleasure of submitting to our readers a communication from a Correspondent, who takes a warm interest in the progress of Vernacular Education, and shall endeavour to support his enlightened views by our humble advocacy.

More than fifteen years have now elapsed since the great movement in favor of English education was urged by Mr. Trevelyan, and commenced under the auspices of Lord William Bentinck. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at that, at this distance of time, its object should have passed out of recollection, and that some should be inclined to suppose that it was the triumph of the principle of English over that of Vernacular instruction. But this was by no means the case; the great object of that movement was to transfer the patronage of Government from the almost exclusive study of Oriental Literature, to the cultivation of the English language and European science. Previously to that order, the encouragement of the state had been divided between the study of Sanskrit and Arabic, on the one hand, and that of English, on the other, with a strong preponderance of feeling towards the former. In 1835, the Government of India announced its intention to make the cultivation of English the main object of its educational institutions; and the star of Oriental Literature lost its ascendancy. This movement has been eminently successful. A knowledge of English has now become the great point of ambition to Native youths in and about the metropolis, and hundreds of them are to be found capable of writing our language with purity and elegance. That movement was not antagonistic to vernacular education, but was rather intended to pave the way for its diffusion. It was seen that the first step in that direction must be the preparation of works of useful knowledge in the language of the country, whether by translations or by treatises, and it was felt that this object could not be more effectually promoted than by training up Natives in a knowledge of English and European literature and science, with a view to their becoming the instruments of transferring this knowledge into their own tongue. The English Colleges had, therefore, a direct reference to the establishment of an extended system of vernacular education. In this respect also, the movement has been, to a certain extent, crowned with success. Though Bengalee has not been cultivated by the youths who have studied English, to the extent which was to have been desired, yet there are more than fifty natives at this time fully prepared to transfer the knowledge they have acquired to their own Native tongue. That this has not been effected is to be attributed to the melancholy fact, that the Government of Bengal has no leisure for the organization of any such plan of improvement, and is obliged to act on the collision of

ren maxim, that "sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." Neither is there any adequate appreciation of the importance of vernacular education, in the leading or the subordinate members of the Bengal Government. But there is a good time coming; and the new Charter will cure this evil.

We are sorry to perceive that the idea seems to be again revived after it was supposed to have become extinct, that English ought to be the exclusive medium of instruction in the Kingdom of Bengal. The great battle between the Anglicists and the Vernacularists, as they were designated, which raged with such intensity for many years, was apparently terminated by mutual concessions. The Vernacularists fully admitted the necessity of giving a complete education in English to all who had leisure and opportunity for studying it. The Anglicists, on their part, conceded the importance of giving instruction through the vernacular tongue to those who had no time for the acquisition of English. Now, although the Anglicists may still admit this principle, theoretically, to save appearances, they appear to us to manifest the most stern and uncompromising opposition to every attempt to carry it into effect. They are willing, apparently, to grant the principle, provided it is never to be brought into practical operation. They are prepared to resist the appropriation of any portion of the public resources to the support of vernacular institutions; and when an attempt is made by private individuals to prepare a series of books for the instruction of the natives, the plan is treated with boundless contempt. A doubt is thus cast over the sincerity of their views. It is certain that of the fifty thousand students now at the English Schools and Colleges in Bengal, public and private, four thousand, at the least, will leave them without such a knowledge of the language as would enable them to understand a book in it; that the rudiments they have acquired of it will be lost after their studies are terminated, and they are absorbed in native society. Thus, they will have derived little, if any, intellectual benefit from their tuition, or indeed any other advantage but a qualification for a clerkship. Supposing, however, the whole five thousand to turn out accomplished English scholars, capable of keeping up and increasing their stock of knowledge by subsequent study; and supposing the same number of ripe scholars to be turned out by these institutions every seven years, still, this would, after all, be the education of a class, — an important class, but still a class only. This is not that national education which is the great vocation of the Nineteenth Century. It will only make the line of demarcation between knowledge and ignorance more palpable and more deplorable. How stands the matter in England? — There, we have Fifty, perhaps Sixty thousand men who have received the highest education which this most enlightened age can give; far above that of any of our Hindoo College or Free Church youths; yet the existence of this body is not considered to supersede the duty of educating the people; on the contrary, it is understood to increase the necessity of it. In this country, the giving of a complete education, in every department of knowledge, to the "upper ten thousand," to use a New York expression, will still leave the lower classes a prey to degrading ignorance and all its baneful consequences. The British Government in India is a debtor to both classes, and the education it imparts must be suited in manner and matter to the circumstances of each. The Upper Ten thousand here desire for the



acquisition of a foreign tongue; they can give six or eight years to it. Let them apply with the utmost diligence to English, and obtain access to its boundless stores of knowledge. They cannot imitate too much of the language, or become too European in their thoughts and aspirations. The middling and the lower classes, have no time and no facilities for the acquisition of a foreign tongue. We cannot expect them to spare more than four years of life for study. This period of time must, therefore, be wisely husbanded by giving them the knowledge they require through the medium of their own tongue. This period, although limited, is yet sufficient for the study of ten, twelve, or fifteen, small treatises in their mother tongue, which will introduce them to a new world of ideas, give them a taste for reading, and prepare them for the perusal of other works which may subsequently be published in their own language. It is as much a national duty to give the lower Hundred Thousand, the rudiments of History, Geography, Astronomy, Statistics, and Natural Philosophy, by translations, in their own language, as to give the Upper Ten Thousand access to Shakespeare, and Milton, in the original.

The moment we talk of translations, the Anglicists exclaim, with pious horror, are you going to murder Shakespeare by attempting to put him into Bengalee? Not at all; we have no intention to commit a breach of the sixth or even of the tenth commandment. We shall never attempt the translation of Shakespeare, nor even the use of him. We shall not want either Shakespeare, or Milton for the lower tier of Native Society, till the language is sufficiently improved and refined to admit of a good translation, and the people are sufficiently advanced to appreciate it. Till that time we shall leave the students of English in undisturbed possession of the poets. But we have to have no transference of useful knowledge into the native tongue, is no attempt to be made to dispel the Cimmerian darkness which envelops the people, till their language is sufficiently rich to furnish an elegant translation of Shakespeare? It is expected, moreover, that the Bengalee language will attain the requisite degree of strength, copiousness, and refinement, without cultivation? Yet, even in its present condition, it is sufficient for all the purposes for which we want it—that of imparting a plain, honest, useful education, to the body of the people, and of preparing works both of instruction and entertainment for their use. Even in its present state, it is sufficiently clear and copious to be the medium of conveying to the people a knowledge of the laws, civil, criminal, and fiscal which they are to obey, and some of which are couched in language by no means the most simple. The Code of 1798 is quite as intelligible in Bengalee as it is in English. Let any man examine the elaborate legal argumentation, the nice shades of legal distinction contained in a decree drawn up by a Principal Sudder Ameen in the Bengalee language, and then say that the language is not fit to become the vehicle of national instruction.\* The Missionaries, again, have found it by no means impossible to express the leading doctrines, and some also of the more recondite doctrines of Christianity with adequate clearness and force in this tongue. Mr. Ardesser Framjee, some three months ago, delivered a matchless lecture on Chemistry in the Government College, at Bombay, to five hundred of his own countrymen, and the Bengalee is even more copious and cultivated than the Government. What matters it then that the Bengalee language is unequal to express the

lofty conceptions of Shakespear and Milton; still it is the language of the law, the language of the Courts, the language of evangelical instruction, and may be made the language of science. It has, moreover, the peculiar advantage of being able to borrow from the richest, the most copious, and most refined language which human genius has ever succeeded in elaborating. It is the language through which a population of thirty millions of people receive but too many of their sinister impressions. Is it incapable of being made the instrument of good, and the basis of national education?

[Communicated.]

A letter from Mr. Pratt declaratory of the views held probably by the Vernacular Committee generally, has brought forward both the *Harbura*, and its Sunday ally. The challenge is ably written, its tone being rather that of appeal than of dogmatism. Let us examine the reply of the "Coriphueus" to whom it is addressed. This appears in the same issue, and being the result of some days' preparation, we may regard it as showing the enemy's full force. The writer indeed avows that he has nothing new to urge on the subject.

He thinks himself opposing Mr. Pratt, when arguing that the study of English shall be open to all, who may have time and taste for its acquisition, but when Mr. Pratt states the object of the English education movement as one that concerned the upper classes, he by no means intended to define it as limited to them. Neither, does he, as we read him, assume that these upper classes were familiar with Arabic and Sanscrit Literature. Whereas, learning had hitherto been represented by the lore of the *Shrotr*, and the *Pandit*, and whereas there had hitherto in native estimation formed the upper and educated class, the English movement had for its object to give the former another and more useful character, and to re-inforce the latter by recruits from English Colleges. This object has been so far gained that the term education, now bears altogether a different meaning from what it did 15 years ago, and that certificates from the *Milind*, *Hoghy*, and similar Institutions have almost supplanted those from the *Mudrasash* and *Sanscrit* College.

Here, then, the impulse given, was sufficient—proof of it abounds in the neighbourhood of the Presidency—the more qualified and the earlier circumstances reap the fruits of their self-improvements, and form that intelligent native society which is already beginning to justify the European in the Press, and in the Counting House, at the Bar, and on the Bench. The rest, and these, we fear, are many, have to fall back upon their villages where they soon forget their English.

Now, says Mr. Pratt, this system of education is decidedly of a class character, and is far from constituting the whole scheme of the Government plan of 1835. The mass of the people in the interior can never benefit by this—rather the contrary, for they see only the failures, who return home to be the month's wonder, and then to stand as examples of the benefits of an English education. No real progress in national education can be made under such a system, but in these villages are perhaps scores of people, who can more or less imperfectly read their own language, and who have the leisure and will so to entertain themselves. All the food available, to entertain themselves, consists of *Billy Boodler*, and other such trash as has been expunged in No. 26 of the *Calcutta Review*. These stores they have long exhausted, there is a want of something better, which is already, independently of the Vernacular Committee, being partially supplied in the open market by translations of such works as *Rasselas* and the *Arabian Nights*. To encourage the craving, and at the same time to help to meet it, is what the Vernacular Committee have at heart,—an

object perfectly compatible with a concurrence in the *Harbura's* fact, that the only means by which a literature can be effectually acquired, is a knowledge of the language in which it is extant."

In short, the *Harbura's* opposition to this institution, resolves itself into something approaching to an approval of the object with which it is founded. He does not and never has opposed the study of the vernacular. Those who have time and opportunity to read Robinson Crusoe in Bengalee, will have time also, he thinks, for the acquisition of English. The study of the two languages may go on *pari passu* without difficulty, but if the Vernacular Society think they will create a national literature by multiplying translations, they are in his opinion, much mistaken. There is no dearer here, that a national literature is a desideratum—only a different view of the means of obtaining one. The study of the vernaculars in itself, implies the gradual formation of a vernacular literature.

How can it be supposed, however, that the study of two languages, one spoken by nearly 30 millions, and the other by scarcely more than as many hundreds, will advance *pari passu*? Could such a prospect be anticipated, then indeed would we be deceived. This, or the day in doing what we have not yet done in Wales, and what has baffled Austrian Statesmanship for more than a century and half? Then, indeed, 'that great project of anglicising Bengal' might be induced to wear a feasible aspect—so perhaps might *Phonetic* in Europe, a sister and equally great project, which has only just been quibbled. This, or the Romanieng system, much discussed here some years back, was indeed more likely to succeed than the 'anglicising project', but imagine the creature of either scheme. A Romanized Bengalee? 'I'd rather be a dog and bay the moon, than such a Roman.'

It is amusing to observe how the *Harbura* insists on the proposed translations being indifferent, and the *Literary Gazette* dwells most doubtfully on the wild work which the Committee are about to make among the pets upon his shelves. Such a wall has occasionally been raised in our own country over the English versions of *Faust* and *Wilhelm Meister*, but we do not the less see how they are. A son, her talented daughter, and a lust of others, and this, though the European languages are now introduced into every school-room. Let a book be good and in whatever language it may be, it will find Translators for the benefit of those who cannot read it in the original, not for the criticism of the *Harbura*. The *Literary Gazette* would exclude from the pleasure and information derivable from such works, and many who constitute the former class. "Thoughts," he says, in the process of transfer "from the first great thinker to the imperfect language of inferior minds" undergo "deplorable transformations." Granted in many cases, but on the plea of such risk to seal up the said thoughts so as to prevent them, or any modifications of them, from coming out for general edification, is a strange way of doing homage to the said 'great thinker.' On a similar principle, the Directors will not give to the Civilian his £5000 annuity, till he has paid for another £500, and the *Presidential* Government may take any permission from *Buck* to Southampton unless you accompany it.

We wish the writers had spared the unwholesome remarks on Mr. Bethune which deface their articles, and degrade a question which is fairly debatable as a general one. Will either of them undertake to review the first publication of the Society? In this respect, at all events, the *London Athenaeum*, as unsparing generally in its treatment of translations as the *Harbura*, passes sentence twice on the *Sh*. Society will, we trust, court the notice of the Press, both European and Native, and the more effective, short of appalling, this ordeal can qualify itself for becoming the more careful will be the Translator and the more faithful his work.

DISCOVERY OF JAWS IN CHINA.—Much interest has been excited by the receipt of intelligence from China, of the discovery of a colony of Jaws in the interior of that country; and we have now the pleasure of publishing a communication which we have just received from Shanghai on the subject:—

\* The question submitted for the decision of Government only concerned the relative advantage of teaching English on the one side, and the learned Eastern languages on the other.

1st Annual Report of Committee, quoted in *Trevelyan on Education in India*, p. 22.











Any member of the Commission.













# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

### EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.

THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 2d of the ensuing Month of April for the departure of the next Steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Basse—Nore, accordingly by having given the following notification, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by this opportunity, will be Monday, the 26th instant, and that the first set of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Saturday, the 23d idem.

### EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HADDONSTONE" DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.

NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Basse, and the intermediate Ports, (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Haddonstone*, will be closed at this Office, on Monday, the 7th Proximo, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Tuesday, the 8th idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Koolpore, in time to reach the Steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Haddonstone* can be received after 3 p. m. of that date.

J. B. BURNELL BESNANT,  
Deputy and Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, 10th March, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donations:

For Mrs. Johnson.  
Through the Rev. W. S. Mochey.  
The Rev. R. B. Russell, Esq. .... 15 0  
T. Whittenberg, Esq. .... 5 0  
Collected through the Editor of the *Friend of India*.  
E. A. Blandell, Esq. .... 50 0

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Mail of the 7th February arrived in Calcutta on Sunday, the 10th, after a passage of Thirty-seven days, and the intelligence brought by it, though not of the importance that was expected, is still full of interest. The Session, the fourth of the present Parliament, was opened by the Queen in person on the 4th February, but the Royal speech, which had been so anxiously longed for, contained little beyond the ordinary vague outline of what was to be done during the Session. The sentence which had reference to the recent Papal aggression, had been looked for with the deepest interest by the various parties in the state, but the following contains nothing whatever of a definite character. "The recent assumption of certain Ecclesiastical Titles conferred by a foreign power, has excited strong feelings in this country, and large bodies of my subjects have presented addresses to me, expressing their attachment to the throne, and praying that such assumptions should be resisted. I have assured them of my resolution to maintain the rights of my crown, and the independence of the nation, against all encroachment, from whatever quarter it may proceed. I have at the same time expressed my earnest desire, and firm determination, under God's blessing, to maintain unimpaired the religious liberty which is so justly prized by the people of this country." There is, however, one sentence in the speech which promises measures of even more importance than those directed against the Pope. "The administration of justice in the several departments of Law and Equity, will no doubt receive the serious attention of Parliament; and I feel confident that the measures which may be submitted, with a view of improving that administration, will be discussed with that mature deliberation which important changes in the highest Court of Judicature in the Kingdom imperatively demand." This reference of course to a projected reform in the Chan-

cery Courts, and perhaps even to a general reformation of the legal system of the country. The next sentence is more promising still. "A measure will be laid before you providing for the establishment of a system of Registration of Deeds and Instruments relating to the transfer of Property. This measure is the result of inquiries which I have caused to be made into the practicability of adopting a system of registration, calculated to give security to titles, and to diminish the cost of litigation to which they have hitherto been liable, and to reduce the cost of transfers." If the spirit of this declaration is fairly carried out, and a complete system of registration established, land will be transferred with the same facility and expedition as Bank Shares, or Stock, and one great burden will be removed from the tenure of the soil. The debate which followed the speech from the throne, was not very interesting, as all parties appeared to reserve themselves for the grand discussion which was to take place on Friday, the 7th February, on which day Lord John Russell had pledged himself to bring forward the Ministerial motion for the reprobation of the Roman Catholic Bishops. There were, however, sufficient indications of the side which the various parties in the House intended to take. Lord Camoys, who may be considered as the organ of the moderate Roman Catholics, declared, that although a Roman Catholic, he considered the establishment of the Hierarchy an unwise evil, and he would support the Ministry in any proper measure for its suppression. The Irish Catholics, on the other hand, were exceedingly violent, but they met with little attention, and Mr. Roebuck, and the radical party generally, were opposed to any interference of any kind. Mr. Hume thought that the House looked like a Meeting of Ecclesiastics, and announced his determination not to allow the Colonial reform question to slip out of sight in the tumult. If the debate was exceedingly mild, so also was the reported measure of the Premier. It was simply to declare the assumption of any title in England or Ireland, by any Roman Catholic Bishop, an offence to be visited by a suitable penalty. The Act will be extended to Ireland, and it is understood, that in that case, the Viceroy will resign his office. Should the reports upon this subject prove correct, it is not impossible that Lord Clarendon may be the next Governor-General of India, and it is impossible to read the review of his Irish administration in the last *Edinburgh* without feeling "one's mouth water" at the prospect. At any rate, the vicerealty will probably be abolished in a few months. Lord John Russell, advertising to the state of the Agricultural interest to which the speech from the throne made allusion, declared that no Minister would ever venture to reimpose taxes upon the food of the people, and that even in the Agricultural districts, the labourers were better off than they had been before. Mr. M. Gibson, obtained leave to bring in a bill to establish County Financial Boards, for assessing County rates, and managing County expenditure; the debate on this motion will, in all probability, bring on the whole question of local taxation, to the great advantage of the rural population. The remainder of the Intelligence is of but little importance; the Crystal Palace was closed

on the 3rd February, and is not to be opened again until the actual commencement of the Exhibition. The Executive Committee have now the not very easy or agreeable task of allotting space to all the various claimants, and the magnitude of the work to be performed may be judged of by the fact, that the Committee received in a single day four bushels of letters. Two new cups sent by a milliner, were it is said, the first articles received in the building! The Committee who have to superintend the immense labour of arranging the materials received from every nation of the world, and to provide for the external and internal police of the premises, and to make preparations for the reception of the enormous multitude expected, are only three in number. Col. Reid, Mr. Cole, and Mr. Dilke, (Editor of the *Athenaeum*) but they are assisted by many gentlemen of high reputation in art and science, and we are glad to observe that Dr. Royle in particular, is appointed to superintend the Indian contribution.—The only other item of intelligence we need mention, is, that the Slovaks have pledged guile to the charge of having ill-treated their servant-girl, and have been condemned to two years' imprisonment. The sentence is regarded in some quarters as too lenient, but considering that Mr. Sloane is a ruined man, and can never again show his face in England, we think it amply sufficient.

The news from France is unimportant, but there is a rumour of the death of the Duc de Bordeaux, which if true, will extinguish one of the many parties into which France is divided. The President intends to ask for another "dotation" from the Assembly, which will probably be granted after a disagreeable discussion, as the people are in his favour, and the Assembly is not strong enough for an open rupture with the Executive. It is said, that both the Prince de Joinville and General Cavaignac intend to offer themselves as Candidates for the Presidency in 1852, but as the Mountain will neither vote for Cavaignac nor a Bourbon, and the peasantry are still in favour of Louis Napoleon, his chances would seem to be the most promising. In Italy, another revolution is said to be pending. Mazzini, who has settled himself for the present at Geneva, is busily engaged in raising a force with which to try the spirit of the Italian Liberals once more. Money is said to be plentiful at his head quarters, and Garibaldi, who has been to America, is reported to have secured the services of two ship-loads of Americans, the majority of whom served in the Mexican war. Should this last report be correct, Mazzini will have a nucleus for his army upon whom he can always rely. The Danish war has ceased, and the Danish army has been dismissed, with a very flattering address from the King, after a campaign of three years. Another conspiracy has been discovered in Vienna, in which three battalions of artillery were said to be implicated. They have been removed to the Provinces, but the Austrian Government has evidently been alarmed, as an order has been issued forbidding the press to allude to the circumstances. Meanwhile, the Russian troops are posted all along the German frontier with as much regularity as in a blockade.

The news from the United States, though of

some importance, is, with one exception, of little general interest; a Bill has passed for the establishment of a penny postage throughout the length and breadth of the States. This has been a favourite object in the Union for some years past, but the difficulties of the question, from the extent of the territory to be embraced in the arrangement, and which appeared to be constantly increasing while the subject was under discussion, retarded the progress of the Reform.

Mr. Dent has been elected a Director of the East India Company in the room of Mr. Lyall.

**THE PENINSULAR BANK.**—The election of a Secretary for the Bengal Bank, on Thursday last, terminated in favour of Mr. William Grey, of the Civil Service. It is understood, that the six elective commercial Directors, gave him their unopposed suffrage, and that not a single vote was offered for any of the other thirteen candidates. The post has thus been restored to the service after having been disavowed from it for eleven years. In the year 1840, on the resignation of Mr. Uday, of the Civil Service, the most strenuous efforts were made to place the office in the hands of one not in the service, and the most vehement opposition was offered by a well known Secretary to Government, now one of our Honourable Masters in Leadenhall Street, to the proposal of depriving the service of this prize. It seems strange that so great a change of opinion should have been produced in six years, and that the same degree of anxiety should now be manifested to borrow an honest and zealous man for this post from the Civil Service, which was then exhibited to take it out of that circle. This change of views in the Bank parlour, can only be attributed to the disastrous events which have occurred in the mercantile community of Calcutta in the intermediate period, and which have cast so deep a shade on the commercial morality of the metropolis. The non-official members of the Direction have, in fact, declared by this vote, that they had greater confidence in the service of an intelligent, zealous, and honorable man, totally separate from all local associations,—although a civilian,—than they could repose in any one mixed up with the local establishments in Calcutta. The choice of the Directors is of course highly advantageous to Mr. Grey, who, after a residence of a little more than ten years in the country, has thus worked his way to an office of 2600 Rs. a month, independently of a House. The unpopularity of the choice, moreover, reflects no small credit on his individual merits, and on the discernment of those who took him out of the routine of the service, and placed him in a position which has thus afforded scope for the development of his talents. Mr. Grey has now obtained from the suffrage of six independent men, who had an eye only to the interests of the Bank, a post of importance and emolument such as he could not, under any circumstances, have expected to obtain from the Government of Bengal, while it is fettered by the seniority manacles. At the same time, the election of a Civilian to this office, under such circumstances, reflects credit also on the service in general, by demonstrating that the representatives of the Bank constituency do not believe the doctrine which has been inculcated on the public with so much assiduity, that the Civil Service is a mere collection of drones, fools, and rogues.

**MONTHLY COMMUNICATION WITH THE STRAITS AND CHINA.**—We are delighted to perceive, that arrangements have at length been

completed by the Peninsular and Oriental Company for the establishment of a monthly communication between Calcutta, the Straits, and China. Many efforts have heretofore been made to induce the Government of India to undertake this line, but though the Indian Navy contains so many large steamers, no such arrangement has been within its reach. Those vessels could not have been diverted from the service on which they are now employed without the express sanction of the Home Authorities, and there was little hope that any such proposal would meet with acceptance in Leadenhall Street. The monthly mail from China, has, therefore, been taken down to Galle, and brought up from thence to Calcutta; it was thus detained on the voyage double the time that was absolutely necessary. The Peninsular Company here, at length, determined to occupy this line of communication, and their first vessel is to start on the 1st of May next. They have acted with much judgment in at once taking possession of it, without waiting months in negotiations with the public authorities, here or in England. Ever since the system of holding monthly sales of Opium was established in Calcutta, it has been apparent, that a large and efficient steamer, capable of accommodating two or three thousand chests, might at any time secure a monopoly of the freight, and realise the most ambitious profits. The wonder is, not that the Peninsular Company have now embarked in this undertaking, but that they should have allowed the opportunity to remain unimproved, for so long a period as three years. It is manifest that, if it had not been immediately occupied by them, either their American rivals,—whom the removal of the navigation laws has now let loose on the market,—or their English competitors would have taken possession of it. They are just in time to secure it.

The establishment of this line will prove advantageous in many respects, and to many interests. It will enable Government to regulate the Opium Sales, so as to correspond with the arrival of the monthly advices by the Steamer, and it will, at the same time, give confidence to the billings of those who are engaged in the traffic. It will give the Indian public direct, speedy, and punctual communication with the Straits and with China. It will also afford the residents in Calcutta and its vicinity, another opportunity of recruiting their health and strength by a sea trip, and thus contribute in no small degree to the renovation of debilitated constitutions, and the longevity of Indian exiles. An invalid will now have his choice, within a single month, of proceeding either to Ceylon, or to Moulmein, or to Singapore and China. Penang will probably become the Sanatorium of the Bay of Bengal, and we hope that the rapid resort of invalids and invalids which may now be expected, will lead to the establishment of a noble hotel on moderate terms.

#### PROPORTION OF OFFICERS TO STAFF EMPLOY.

Among our relations will be found the Orders issued by the Governor General under instructions from the Court of Directors, relative to the number of officers who are in future allowed to be absent from their corps on Staff employment. The paucity of officers with their regiments has for many years been the subject of animated discussion; the inconvenience which it entails has been pointed out with great solemnity and earnestness, and in every case, the remedy proposed for the evil has been the augmentation of the number of officers. The late Com-

mander-in-Chief, Sir Charles Napier, always expressed a very strong opinion on the subject, and reproached the weakening of the various corps by the abstraction of an undue proportion of officers. He availed himself of his position of Commander-in-Chief to bring the matter, in an official form, before the Court of Directors, and maintained that with the large demand made on the strength of the army by the Irregular Regiments raised in the Punjab, it would be impossible to limit the abstraction of officers from the regular corps to the number which had been allowed. Thereby of the Court of Directors to this application may be considered to embody their definitive determination on this important subject, and is, therefore, entitled to particular attention. It must be borne in mind that the despatch was written after the arrangements for the military occupation of the Punjab had been completed, and the present despatch may therefore be considered also as expressing the opinion of the Court, as to the number of Military Officers which they deem necessary for the various corps of horse and foot, regular and irregular, which the exigencies of the empire, with its present expansion of territory, requires. Their determination is against any increase of the number. They remark that with a view to the demands of the service, both in the civil and in the military department, they recently granted an extra Captain to each regiment, and they consider the present complement of officers sufficient for all the services, of whatever nature, which may be required of the military branch. We may therefore conclude that since the large demand made on the strength of the army by the annexation of the Punjab, has not appeared to the Court of Directors to require an increase of the number of officers, no future contingency of which there is at present any appearance, will induce them to grant an augmentation of the number.

The Court have now allowed Six officers of the rank of Captain and Subaltern to be detached from the regiment on staff employ, civil or military. We have 74 Regiments of Native Infantry and 10 of Native Regular Cavalry; and the whole number of officers allowed to be absent from their corps under this rule would be 846—504; but the number actually absent on staff employ, is only 468, according to the last quarterly Army List. These abstractions are very unequally divided among the various corps. In eight regiments, there appears to be only a single Lieutenant on staff employ, while in five others there are five absent, and in two no fewer than six. A similar disproportion is visible among the Captains. In nine Regiments the number of absentees on staff employ is only one for each; in three others, there are five thus absent. These discrepancies, we suppose, it is the intention of the Court and of the Government gradually to correct, so as to equalise the number of officers absent from each regiment.

How far the Court of Directors may have acted judiciously in having thus determined to allow the Native Regiments to remain permanently under-officers, is another question. The *Times* appears to think that the reduction of the number has been carried too far. In the number of the 26th December, the Editor says, "In the military service the retrenchment was still more unfortunately conspicuous, for the abstraction of an officer or two from a corps went far to destroy the practical efficiency of the regiment, and it was found necessary to recoup the decision." To what decision the sentence refers we are not able to ascertain; but it is at least certain, that the present rule

provides for the absence of six officers from each corps, three Captains and three Subalterns, on permanent staff duty, independently of the number who may be temporarily absent on furlough, or sick certificate. The fact is, that the Court of Directors have been cutting and curtailing to provide for the military occupation of the whole of the Punjab, from Boopur to Peshawar, without any addition to the regular army—three Queen's corps excepted—or any augmentation of the number of officers. And this has been effected by organising irregular Regiments of horse and foot, and offering them from the Regiments of the line. Should the peace of the Punjab be permanently and efficiently maintained under this system, it will be entitled to the praise of sound policy as well as of prudent economy; but the wisdom of the measure remains to be tested by the state of that country, after ten years of occupation.

**THE UNION BANK'S LIQUIDATION.**—We are happy to learn, from the explanations which have been given through the medium of some of the journals in Calcutta, that the unfortunate shareholders of the Union Bank are not to be called on for any other contributions to meet the Liabilities of the Bank, beyond the amount at which, they were assessed. This assurance, which has been unofficially given, is accompanied by some gratuitous reflections on those who were unable to comprehend the enigmatical report of the Auditors, published at the end of last month. That the alarm which was created by the report, was not so very unreasonable, will appear by the following simple statement.—On Saturday, the 10th of January 1848, at the meeting of the Proprietors of the Bank, the following account of its Assets and Liabilities was given in by the Trustees:

Assets, .....	Rs. 1,59,25,810
Liabilities, .....	66,90,120

From this account it was made apparent, that the whole capital of the Bank was untouched, and that there was a surplus of Two lakhs of Rupees beyond it. We need not remind the reader, that this report of the Assets of the Bank eventually turned out to be utterly fallacious. As soon as an attempt was made to grasp the capital, it was found to be altogether unsubstantial. But the statement of the Liabilities, as far as we can trace the subsequent notices of them, remained without any material encroachment.

Again, the general report of the Committee for April 1848, signed by Mr. Morton, has the following remark: "Carefully revised statements of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank have been prepared, and any shareholders assigning a satisfactory reason, may have access to the same on application to the Secretary. Annexed is an abstract of these statements."

Liabilities, .....	Rs. 57,22,202
Assets, .....	44,50,052

Here the Liabilities were said to exceed those announced in January by a little more than 30,000 Rs. In June, however of that year, they were stated at a lower figure, or 54 lakhs, and it was proposed to assess the Indian shareholders at 40 lakhs, and to exact 7 lakhs from English shareholders, leaving 7 lakhs only to be realised from the Assets of the Bank. In September, 1848, the scheme of assessment was made public, and the amount assessed on the shareholders in India and England was Rs. 52,08,700, and it was published with the understanding, that this sum, with some aid from the Assets, would be sufficient to meet all the Liabilities of the Bank. When therefore, the Auditors in the report published three weeks ago, stated that the total amount of

outstanding Liabilities of the Bank at the date of its suspension, in January 1848, was 68,44,985 Rs.—that is, that they exceeded by more than Nine lakhs the highest sum at which they had been stated between the failure of the Bank and the construction of the scheme of assessment,—a feeling of surprise, not unmixed with alarm, arose in the mind. The natural inference which we drew from this statement, was, that some new Liabilities had been discovered, which had not been provided for in the scheme of assessment. Be that as it may, it was the bounden duty of the Committee to have accompanied this statement with such explanations as would have obviated any such impression.

The fifth item in the account remains as unintelligible as ever. "The amount otherwise adjusted, Rs. 10,19,797." We do not doubt the perfect accuracy of this statement, but we still continue to insist, that it ought not to have been inserted in the account without a full and satisfactory explanation. This Report though dated the 20th of February 1851, does not include a payment made in January, and it evidently embraces only the operations of the Bank to the end of December 1850. During these fifty seven days, was there not ample time for the Auditors or the Secretary to have drawn such a statement as would have rendered the accounts intelligible?

We again press for an explanation of this item. In April 1848, Mr. Morton declared that after the statements had been carefully revised, the Liabilities were found to amount to Rs. 57,22,202. Mr. Campbell and Mr. Ross, the Auditors, now state that in January 1848, the total amount of Liabilities of the Bank was Rs. 68,44,985. We must therefore assume that Mr. Morton's statement was inaccurate, and that of the Auditors accurate. The Auditors, moreover, state that independently of the sum which has been paid to the Creditors from the assessment, the amount otherwise adjusted, (that is, of the Liabilities of the Bank) is Rs. 10,19,797. From what source this sum of 10 lakhs of Rupees had been obtained, the Report does not tell us; we are left therefore to conjecture that it may have been derived from the Assets. If any interest had accrued on the original Liabilities, during the three years, it would doubtless have been distinctly stated, but there is no kind of allusion to it. If those Liabilities have not been thus augmented, it must be evident that the assessment exceeds the exigency.

Total Liabilities of the Bank, ....	Rs. 68,44,985
The amount otherwise adjusted, 10,19,797	

leaving to be made good by assessment, .....

Rs. 47,25,188

and the scheme of assessment provided for contributions to the extent of 52 lakhs of Rupees. We maintain that in whatever aspect these statements are viewed they are meagre, unintelligible and unsatisfactory.

Lastly, the sum paid by the Shareholders, on the assessment, in cash and securities, is put down at .....	Rs. 35,07,848
The total amount disbursed to the Creditors under the scheme, is .....	28,88,147

Leaving a difference of .....	9,99,071
To account for this difference, we have Law charges, .....	106,116
Re-establishment and Miscellaneous charges, .....	90,792
The amount of cash in hand and in securities running; viz. —	

Cash in hand, .....	7,076
Bank of Bengal, .....	180,848
Promissory Notes, .....	115,338

4,96,166

Leaving a difference of Two lakhs of Rupees. If it was deemed necessary to give the unfortunate Proprietors any account of the progress of liquidation, it should have been accompanied by such explanations as would have obviated the possibility of misapprehension, and so large a sum of two lakhs of Rupees should not have been omitted from the accounts altogether. The coincidence between the mysterious character of this Report, and that which the Directors were in the habit of publishing, while they were deriving the institution into the gulph of bankruptcy, is, we are sure, purely accidental, but it is not the less to be deprecated. Those reports were made to deceive; the present is intended to enlighten, yet such is the fatality of this Bank, to the very end of the Chapter, that it is almost as obscure as its predecessors.

After this was in type, we learn from statements published in the journals of yesterday, that the sum of two lakhs of Rupees to which we have alluded above, consists of money in the hands of the Sheriff. Why was not this stated to the public? We close this discussion with the assurance that we do not for a moment question the fidelity and the accuracy of these accounts; we merely mean to say that they were entirely unintelligible, and of this there can be no better proof than the four or five semi-official explanations which have been successively given. The explanations now afforded ought to have been given, at once, at the outset.

**DESTRUCTION OF THE MISSION PRESS AT BAYKON.**—We deeply regret to learn the entire destruction by fire of the Mission House, Chapel, Printing office, workshop and store room of the Missionaries at Baykon. About twenty minutes to 12, on the night of the 4th of January, a violent dwelling on the premises was discovered to be on fire. Mr. Chandler immediately gave the alarm, and every effort was made to extinguish the flames, but the wind arose, and the house being covered with leaves, the fire spread with rapidity to the adjoining houses and by midnight they were so completely enveloped in flames that the Missionaries were only able to save about half their wardrobe; every thing else was consumed. There has seldom been so complete a destruction by fire as this; and it is probable that if Mr. Chandler had not sat up later than usual to complete an engraving, the Missionaries and their families might have fallen victims to the conflagration. The loss of property is estimated at 40,000 Rs. Every thing has perished: all the books, scriptures and tracts, which it had taken years to compile and to print, were consumed in a few moments. The printing office, with all its Oriental types, created by the public spirit and laborious zeal of the Missionaries, has ceased to exist. While the buildings were in flames, Senior Arujo Ross, the Portuguese Consul invited the Missionary families to his residence, and has laid them under the greatest obligation by his generous hospitality.

Mr. Chandler is now on his way to the United States, to raise funds for repairing the loss, and again commencing the useful labours of his press, and we trust that the sympathies of his Christian brethren will be exhibited by the most substantial tokens of relief. With the Mission Press at Serampore was thus consumed by fire, thirty-nine years ago, the Serampore

Missionaries had the happiness to find that the entire loss, amounting to no less than 70,000 Rs., was made up by public liberality in England, in Two months.

**ANOTHER FAVORABLE MOVE FOR THE VERNACULARISTS.**—It is only a few weeks since we noticed a lecture on Chemistry delivered at Bombay in the Gujaratee language, by Mr. Ardaseer Framjee, and we now perceive in the Bombay journals a prospectus issued by the students of the Literary Society of the Elphinstone Institution, which affords a still stronger proof of the correctness of the view we have taken of the question of vernacular education. Two lectures on the history, mechanism, and powers of the Oxyhydrous Microscope have been delivered in Gujaratee, and such is the interest which has been excited among the native population, by the exhibition of scientific truths in their own language, that although the price of admission was fixed at two rupees, and one rupee, according to the seats, the native audience filled even the ample space afforded by the Town Hall. A third lecture on the same subject was then delivered in Mahrattree, but as the people of that race are more inert, and in less affluent circumstances than the generality of Parsees, the admission fees were lowered to eight annas and four annas. At this rate, the hall of exhibition was so crowded, that it was impossible to find accommodation for all the candidates for admission. The net proceeds of these lectures, amounting to Eight hundred rupees, will be devoted to the extension of female education. The time allowed by the Guicowar for the exhibition of his microscope having expired, the spirited young men of the Elphinstone College have determined to continue their system of vernacular lecturing on a larger scale. A Parsee gentleman, with the liberality which distinguishes his race, has presented them with the sum of Rs. 2,000, to be laid out in the purchase of instruments, suitable for popular lectures, and the students have determined to raise a further sum by subscription, and to order out a complete set of instruments from England, and fit up a lecture room in the vicinity of the Elphinstone Institution. They then propose to commence a regular series of lectures in the vernacular dialects of Bombay, upon such of the sciences as admit of being sufficiently popularized, and the proceeds, after a sufficient sum has been set apart to maintain the lecture room, will, we believe, be devoted to the extension of female education. Facts like these speak for themselves, and their gradual accumulation demonstrates the truth of the assertion, that the only way in which the minds of the masses of India can be effectually aroused, is by popular instruction, through the medium of their own language.

**SMALL'S INDEX TO THE ACTS.**—We have been favored with a copy of the "Index to the Acts" passed by the Legislative Council in India from their commencement in 1834, to the end of the year 1849, by Mr. James Small. The compilation of Indexes is a matter of so much difficulty, and requires such peculiar qualifications, that it is may almost be entitled to rank as a science. While nothing is apparently so easy, there are few undertakings which are in reality more difficult as well as more arduous; and this will become apparent to any one who will set himself down to the task, and then submit the result of his labors to those who are desirous of using an Index. We ourselves have some experience of this drudgery, and of the disappointment which

almost invariably attends it, and can fully appreciate the great labor and skill which Mr. Small has brought to his work. The present Index is one of the most perfect and complete of the kind which has ever been published in India, and will be found of the most eminent use by all those who have occasion to consult the Acts. The amazing toil which it must have involved, may be judged of from the fact, that it extends over Five Hundred Quarto pages, and contains more than fourteen thousand different references. The Index is nearly as bulky as the Acts, to which it serves as a key! We are happy to find that the Government of Bengal, and Agra, have subscribed for 250 copies, and we feel confident that it will find favor in the eyes of all those who resort to, or preside in the Courts. The work is printed in the usual neat style of all the productions of the Baptist Mission Press.

**LIST OF THE ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED FROM BENGAL TO THE EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF INDUSTRY AND ART OF ALL NATIONS OF 1851.**—We have been favored with a copy of a pamphlet bearing this title, and containing an elaborate list of every article contributed by the Presidency of Bengal to the Great Exhibition. From some instances we had seen and heard of the negligence and dilatoriness manifested by some of the local Committees, we had begun to fear that the contribution from this Presidency would have been unworthy of its vast extent, and its boundless, though undeveloped, resources. The perusal of this pamphlet has not all such doubts and fears at rest, and Bengal will not only be represented in the Crystal Palace, but represented in precisely the mode which her best friends would desire. The list contains an enumeration of Two thousand six hundred and ninety-nine articles, and forms of itself a commercial dictionary of no small value. The Central Committee have ransacked every corner of Bengal, not only to obtain that which is "rich and rare," but also that which is mean and poor, but illustrative of the skill, the habits, or the social condition of the inhabitants. From the Delhi gem engravers, and the Cuttack jewellers, to the poor "chicken walls" and the poorer shoemaker, every trade carried on in these vast provinces, is fitly represented; while every production, from emeralds and sapphires, down to oil seeds and the innumerable varieties of rice, all find an appropriate place. Under the head of "personal decorations" are enumerated forty-four varieties of precious stones, of which Emeralds, Amethysts, Sapphires, Turquoises, Jasper, Agate, Cornelian, and Chalcedony, are the most valuable. The division "stone and mineral substances used for building," comprises not only jasper, marble, alabaster, and slate, but even red clay, pipe clay, and calcareous clay, or kunkur, the last article being the staple employed in the construction of roads in the Lower Provinces. Of the "vegetable kingdom" we shall say little, except that it comprises every variety of grain, including upwards of Fifty descriptions of rice, every kind of pulse grown from Gwalior to Sumatra, and fourteen varieties of oilseeds, chiefly from the Lower Provinces. The list of spices contains sixty-eight varieties, including pepper, ginger, capaicum, betelnut, cinnamon, nutmeg, camphor, mace, cloves, and cardamoms. For the epicure there is that first of luxuries, edible seaweed, though we suppose it will not be eaten in the Palace, and the sight of it will only excite the appetite of the spectator. We must pass rather more rapidly over the interminable list of oils, dyes, tanning substances, intoxicating drugs,—the

most defective in the whole series, as shown, we believe, ten or twelve varieties of the intoxicating hemp,—medicinal substances, fibrous substances, and woods. This last deserves a few remarks. There are about Thirty of the finest descriptions of wood adapted for furniture, and of exceeding beauty, in this list, very few of which have ever been seen in England. They will, we hope, open a new source of profitable commerce to the Malayan Peninsula, from whence most of them are derived. A great number of specimens of wood from the Tenasserim Provinces have been despatched, and a description of the properties of each specimen, after twelve years' exposure to the weather and the white ants, has been added by Dr. Yalsoner. Khushkha, the scented grass, which though valueless in England for the peculiar purpose to which it is applied in India, is invaluable for basket work, bamboos, rattans, and setul-patree (fine cane) conclude the long list of vegetable productions. The matting, or rather cloth made from this "setul-patree," is, we believe, quite inimitable in England, or indeed in Europe, and its fineness and coolness would make it an invaluable article of manufacture. The "substances used as food" comprehend among many other delicacies, the esculent birds nests, so often talked of in England, and with which French cooks so merry, and the Beche-de-mer, or edible sea slug, which, although repulsive in sound, is exquisite to the stomach.

Under the head of "substances used in manufactures," we find wools from Assam, silks from Bhagulpoor, from Berhampore, from Aracan, from Assam, Bonares, and Chandernagore, the matchless articles of the Swan's down manufactured around Calcutta; Tiger, Leopard, Deer, and Squirrel skins; Buffalo, Cow and Goat hides; horns of the Rhinoceros, Elephant and Buffalo; Tortoise shell, Pearls, and Pearl shells, and various varieties of lac and lac dye.

The native Ekka, or travelling carriage of the North West Provinces, which is the first on the list of machines, will, we fancy, excite some slight surprise among a people accustomed to travel in nothing more uncouth than a taxed cart, while the hackery will be regarded as a sort of monstrosity by those who employ Railway trucks for the conveyance of goods. Its beauty, however, will be half concealed, unless it is put in motion, as an utter contempt for oil is one of the many qualifications of the native driver. The musical instruments also require to be sounded, in order to stun the visitor's ears after the orthodox fashion, but we do not see in the list the native harmonium, the only real musical instrument Bengal possesses, or the wooden harmonium, a series of pieces of wood, which when gently touched emit a most harmonious sound. The list of arms and equipments is full, but the finest specimens will doubtless be sent from the Punjab. Our analysis is already too long, and we can, therefore, only add that every kind of implement from a churka to an awl, every kind of dress from the crown of the king of Oude, to the "saree" of the Bengalee female, finds its appropriate place in this immense collection. We must not, however, omit to notice the glass globes, silvered inside from Delhi; which almost equal in appearance, the splendid specimens of silvered glass which have lately been exhibited in Calcutta, nor the splendid chessboards, of inlaid woods and ivory, which are peculiar to this country. Nor must we pass over a complete set of the clay figures of Krishnaghar, one representing a full Court of Justice, Judge, witnesses, plaintiff, counsel, and all, complete, or another representing the Churruck Poole, which ought to be immediately secured



by some of the Missionary Societies, and a third, showing a native Court of a native Landholder, with, we hope, the private prison in the background. The last division of the list is that of drawings, and here we think is fair, as the 177 ministers of Benares, and the late picture of Moonbaddah, might have been added with advantage. The List of articles, and the collection it represents do honour to the Central Committee, and to their able Secretary, Dr. McClelland. Upon the latter has fallen almost the entire burden of this great undertaking, and when we remember the comparative immobility of many of the agents through whom alone he could hope to succeed, we can only wonder at, and admire his triumphant success. If the contribution of the other two Presidencies, and of the Punjab, has been collected with the same carefulness and skill, the Indian show will be no unfair representation of the vast resources of the Indian Empire.

**THE BOMBAY GUARDIAN.**—We have received the first number of this new journal, and regret that we are unable from want of space to insert its prospectus. In size, appearance, and arrangement, it resembles the *Calcutta Christian Advocate*, and although it is a religious periodical, it will devote its attention also to secular affairs. We doubt whether a journal can possibly be managed by a Committee of Editors of all shades of opinion, but the *Guardian* is well, and we hope it may obtain a great circulation of much good.

**THE JUDSON TESTIMONIAL.**—We have much pleasure in laying before the friends who have so generously responded to the call, the following letter from the Rev. W. S. Mackay, relative to the collection and disposal of the sums subscribed out of respect to the memory of the late Dr. Judson, for the comfort of his family.

*To the Editors of the Friend of India.*  
Sir,—The subscription for the Judson Testimonial have been all acknowledged in your journal. For the further satisfaction of the friends who have expressed their respect for the memory of Dr. Judson, by their generous aid to his afflicted widow and family, I have the pleasure to forward to you the following brief abstract of monies received and disbursed, up to March 1st:

Received from the Editor of the *Friend of India*, being the amount of donations sent to him, — 1,182 8  
— from Mrs. Macleod Wylie, — 915  
— from Mrs. Dr. Lamb, — 687 0  
Donations sent to the Rev. W. S. Mackay, — 345 0

Total amount up to March 1st, 1851, Co's Rs. 3,359 8  
Feb. 24th, Paid to Mrs. Judson, — 3,189 8  
By Mr. Curran, (per Agent), — 160 0 0

A few subscriptions, amounting to 180 Rs., have been since acknowledged in the *Friend*, (making the total amount Co's Rs. 3,439 8) and, with any further sums that may be received, will be transmitted to Mrs. Judson through her Agent.

Although many names are not there, which one might naturally have expected to be among the earliest entered on the list, it will afford (I feel assured) a strong pledge to those, who have subscribed so liberally, that the Testimonial has fully answered the chief purpose, for which it was designed.

Mrs. Judson has left our shores as she came to them, worn out with sorrow, and seen wasting and deadly sickness, and ill able to encounter fresh cares or troubles of any kind. The money she received here, was sufficient to procure for her and her family, all the comforts she needed, and to relieve her mind from all immediate pecuniary anxieties; and the way, in which it came to her (as it were a posthumous gift from her deceased husband, as well as a proof of the general esteem that he had so deservedly won) was very grateful and soothing to her feelings. As a letter, sent to me from the hands of the writer, —

"With regard to the 'Testimonial,' I have read, and many times re-read, the names of those, who have thus expressed their regard for a saint in banishment; but I could not say what my heart prompted concerning it, because any expression of the kind would necessarily meet less interested eyes:—In showing me kindness for the sake of one, who can no longer do it for himself, they have given a peculiar value to the favor; and the purity of his life thus converted, in a double sense, into a legacy for his family."

I cannot conclude without expressing my thankful acknowledgments, for the support, which the Testimonial has received from the local press, especially from the Editors of the *Hurkaru*, the *Morning Chronicle*, and *Star*, and the *Citizen*. Being entirely unsolicited, it was the more welcome.

W. S. MACKAY.  
Cornwallis Square, March 18, 1851.

We have been requested to give the following information, which will be interesting to many of our readers, a place in our columns:—

Those parties who had relatives or friends on board the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's steam ship *Hindustan*, Captain H. Harris, H. C. S., when she left here on the 8th February, and who have not had letters from Aden, will be glad to hear that she reached that Port with all well on board at 8 A. M. on the 25th February, after a fine run of 8 days, 10 hours from Galle, a distance of 2,125 miles, and of 15 days (including stoppages) from the Sand Head, a distance of 3,337 miles.

The same Company's steam ship *Lady Mary Wood*, Captain T. H. Tronson, arrived at Garden Reach, on Saturday afternoon, at about 4 o'clock, and is now moving alongside the Company's Depot. This vessel will immediately undergo the overhaul usual after a voyage, and will, in conjunction with the *Evia*, Captain H. W. Powell, (expected here the 1st May,) be placed on the direct Calcutta and China line.

**THE BOMBAY TIMES' CALENDAR AND ALMANAC FOR 1851.**—We beg to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the *Bombay Times' Almanac*, a thick volume of about a thousand pages, and ever better printed than the one we noticed a fortnight since. It contains, besides the regular provision of an Almanac and Directory, a large amount of information in the shape of a Civil, Military, and Navy List, Legislative Acts having reference to India, General Orders, and mercantile news. It has, moreover, an elaborate table, giving the salaries of every Civilian, and Military officer in civil employ, together with an account of special allowances for special duties, and a table of what is denominated "deputation allowance." There is also a list of the Judges of the Supreme Court, Bombay, which contains the following extraordinary sentence.

Sir James Dewar. Sworn in 11th September, 1829, Chief Justice, and died 25th November 1830, one of the *Tame Elephants* and said to have been killed by the responsibility of his office.)

William Seymour. Sworn in 11th September, 1829, Justice Judge, and died 24th December, 1829, one of the *Tame Elephants*!)

It is possible that the compiler of a grave, heavy, respectable sort of a work, such as an Almanac ought to be, has been malicious enough to allude to the "tame elephants" who were required to keep the "wild elephants" in order? If J. P. Grant's edition of the Almanac on the whole, is the best we have yet seen. We have, however, one great fault to find with it, viz. that the nomenclature of the pages, instead of being continuous throughout, begins and ends eight times in the volume, a peculiarity which vastly increases the difficulty of referring to any particular page. We hope in the next year's compilation to see this plan abandoned, or if it must be retained, to see it accompanied by continuous paging at the foot.

We wish the Compiler of our own Directory would take a leaf, and more than one leaf, out of this year book of their Bombay Brethren. Innumerable are the improvements of which these useful compilations among us are susceptible. Why should they not, among other important additions, give to the salaries

of all the civil officers in the service of the Crown or Company when they have occasion to name—overestimated and unencouraged?

**WEEKLY RETORTS OF NEWS.**

FRIDAY, MARCH 13.

—We peruse the *Calcutta* papers, that Mr. Knight's attempted account was a failure.

—The *Dak* Gazette believes, that the Governor General's late order about passing in the languages, has pleased Lieutenant Colonel Campbell, and the Canal Department, in an awkward position, many of the officers employed being unable to boast sufficient acquaintance with the English-Labor to obtain the requisite certificate. The *Dak* believes, that the order will be modified to suit this particular case, but we confess, we cannot see any necessity for such a proceeding. The Examination Committee, before whom these officers appeared, must have been unusually strict, as from what we know of their usual mode of procedure they only require a degree of knowledge which any man of ordinary abilities may obtain by two hours' study a day, steadily prosecuted for six months. Moreover, the object of the examination is the good of the service, and it should be adapted to that object. In all situations in which a knowledge of the grammatical languages is necessary, let the officers be examined accordingly. In the Canal department, we require the colloquial jargon, not the *Bach*-*Behar*, and the examination should be suited to this object.

—The same journal mentions, that two officers of H. M.'s 90th Regiment, while standing on a wall, at the old Fort of Pansepur, were assailed by a mob of natives, with stones and clubs, and the officers, who were successful in escaping the ring-leader, and laid a complaint against him before the Magistrate, but was acquitted. An attack without provocation, an offence, especially, in so remote the most conduct of natives, that we have little doubt the officers must have unconsistently offended some prejudice of the populace, been a cow, or a sacred spot, or approached too near to some venerated shrine.

—A correspondent of the *Lahore Chronicle*, writing from Foushar states, that Captain Grantman, the officer who was lately attacked near the *Afghan* fort, did not, though it has been found necessary to amputate the first and middle fingers of his right hand. So daring have the thieves become, that an attempt was made to break into the house of the British Consul, and the British Consul, Captain Grantman, at the time of the attack upon him, and who is able to identify two of his assassins. A servant of an officer has also been killed, and it is probable that it will be necessary to place more extended powers in the hands of the police.

—The *Bombay Times* informs us, that no further attempt to obtain the large supply of water for the city, will be made this year, but the Board of Commissioners have commenced the construction of six new wells in different parts of the island. Their progress in this necessary work is much facilitated by the Bombay Act, which allows them to take land for that as well as other public purposes.

—The same paper contains a statement, supposed to be a poor lad of twelve years of age, which proves that the slave-trade is by no means wholly extinct in Bombay. The lad, whose name was Fulekara Jamnabai, declared, that he had been purchased at Negapatam, by Abdulla Amb, a doctor of that place, and subsequently brought to Bombay. Here he was told that he was a slave, and was always treated with great severity, being beaten by his master, and by four other Abyssinian slaves, who were maintained in the same house. A summons was issued to procure the attendance of the master.

—We have to apologize for a printer's mistake which occurred in the *Share list*, published in our issue of the 12th instant. The *Share list* of the *Bombay Bank* are in this list represented as selling at Rs. 167.5-10-0, the printer having mistaken the premium for the price. The error is too obvious to do any harm.

—The *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* quotes a Circular from the Horse Guards, which affords an additional proof of the anxiety now manifested at home to raise the condition of the meritorious portion of the private soldiers in Her Majesty's Service. The Circular states, that in the vacancy among the clerks in the several military offices with your command, you will apply to the commanding officer of any regiment, or to the Adjutant-General, for a steady and intelligent soldier capable of filling the same. After a period of probation not exceeding three months, this soldier, if confirmed as fit for the situation, shall be removed from his regiment and be attached to general service, in the rank of private. If the soldier continue to be a soldier in the Army, and liable, if removed from his appointment for irregularity or incapacity, to be ordered to military custody, he will be sent to the station. Any man so confirmed in his appointment will have the rank and pay of Sergeant, with clothing, ration, lodging, and fuel, and with money allowances in lieu thereof; and he will have the chance of being promoted to the office, by succession, in the senior clerkship.

—The same journal, speaking of the rule of the Bengal Military Fund, by which officers are permitted to use the reduced pay pension money when going home to be











as Deputy Magistrate, or as Officer of Police, until he shall first have obtained the sanction of the Commis-





UNIVERSAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

At the Third-annual Half-yearly General Meeting of the Indian Branch of this Society, held at the office in Calcutta, on the 24th day of February, 1861.

The following statements, and abstracts accounts duly audited, were submitted:

1. Statement of the whole Policies in force in India for six months, ending the 31st January 1861, and the value of Policies for .. Co. Rs. 5,67,000 0 0

2. Statement showing the value in India of 20 Policies on 100 lives for .. 1,36,300 0 0

3. Statement of total claims made on the commencement of the Society in England and India on 400 lives for the total sum of .. 23,07,187 8 0

4. Statement of total number of Policies issued in England and India amounting to 400 Policies for the aggregate sum of .. 4,72,84,320 5 4

5. Statement of risks outstanding, as also their classification according to periods, ages, and amounts, viz. On Indian Republic 1200 Policies for .. 1,24,93,720 0 0 On English Republic 500 do, do, .. 1,25,34,311 10 0

6. Abstract of Assets in India on 1st January 1861 .. 41,09,480 8 2

7. Abstract of total Assets in England and India .. 56,07,496 10 0

8. Abstract of receipts and payments for six months ending 31st January 1861 .. 2,49,280 5 11

9. The sum to be credited to the general funds of the Society after providing for every expense during the last six months in .. 1,43,901 34 2

10. The sum to be credited to the general funds of the Society after providing for every expense during the last six months in .. 1,43,901 34 2

11. The sum to be credited to the general funds of the Society after providing for every expense during the last six months in .. 1,43,901 34 2

12. The sum to be credited to the general funds of the Society after providing for every expense during the last six months in .. 1,43,901 34 2

13. The sum to be credited to the general funds of the Society after providing for every expense during the last six months in .. 1,43,901 34 2

14. The sum to be credited to the general funds of the Society after providing for every expense during the last six months in .. 1,43,901 34 2

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33. The sum to be credited to the general funds of the Society after providing for every expense during the last six months in .. 1,43,901 34 2

CALCUTTA SCHOOL BOOK SOCIETY.

THE objects of the Calcutta School Book Society being the preparation and publication as widely as possible of cheap works, for the use of schools, including the first-class Indian Schools, the prices sometimes the list price as the cost of each book to the Society, including printing, paper and binding, with an allowance for incidental expenses, and other necessary incidental expenses.

\* Charitable and Educational Institutions, with Book Societies, Schools, and other bodies, are supplied with copies of the Calcutta School Book Society, No. 21, Lower Circular Road, at a discount of 12½ per cent, or 2 sams in the rupee.

or implies clothbound and p. thick paper covers only.

(Continued from last week.)

ANGLO-ASIATIC.

Vocabulary, in three parts .. P. 0 8

Wellington's Principles of English Grammar, Anglo-Bengali .. P. 0 12

Primer, Anglo-Bengali Primer, for Hindu Females, Child's Picture-Book, coloured .. P. 0 1

Flamingo Tales, (Mangrove Islands) .. P. 0 4

Stewart's Historical Anecdotes, (English Kathi) .. P. 0 4

Peacock's Historical Anecdotes, (Bakhyali) .. P. 0 4

Peacock's Historical Anecdotes, (Bakhyali) .. P. 0 4

Peacock's Historical Anecdotes, (Bakhyali) .. P. 0 4

Peacock's Historical Anecdotes, (Bakhyali) .. P. 0 4

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND C. CO.'S STEAMER "HARRINGTON," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.

NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Benar, and the Intermediate Ports (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transshipment by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Harrington*, will be closed at this Office, on Monday, the 17th Proximo, and that on after packet will be despatched hence on Tuesday, the 18th inst., with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Redjeres, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Harrington* can be received after 9 p. m. of that date.

J. R. BULLOCK BERRY,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, 13th March, 1851.

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From S. W. H., Co.'s Rs. 10, to the Serampore Hospital.

For Mrs. Judson.

Collected by the Editor of the *Friend of India*.

Lead. M. H. C., ... 100 0  
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CALCUTTA IN 1750 AND 1850.—We mentioned a week or two ago having received a copy of the Report on the Survey of Calcutta by Mr. Simms, the late Consulting Engineer of the Government of India. The Report furnishes us with many interesting and important particulars relative to the city of Palaces; but before we refer to them, it is desirable to state that the Survey of Calcutta, included in two volumes of imperial folio, on the scale of one inch to 100 feet, is, perhaps, the most magnificent work of the kind which has ever been executed under the auspices of any Government, and does no small credit to the ability and the zeal of Mr. Simms, under whose direction it was performed. We question whether any Survey exists of any metropolis, on so large a scale, and in which the boundary of individual properties is so clearly and so accurately defined. Mr. Simms was appointed to India five years ago, when the home Authorities began first to admit the necessity of giving this country the benefit of Rail Roads, but before the first sod could be turned up, the period of his engagement expired, and the Court of Directors did not think fit to renew it. He was thus deprived of the opportunity of having his name associated with the establishment of Rail Roads in India. But in the present work, the Survey of Calcutta, he has raised a monument, which will long continue to preserve his name and his services in grateful remembrance among the inhabitants of the metropolis.

The first detailed statement of the area, houses and inhabitants of Calcutta which exists is that which was drawn up by Mr. Holwell, in 1751, when he was appointed the *Zemindar* of the town. Calcutta was at that time a large factory, and the *Zemindar* was a most important officer. He was Superintendent and Collector of all the Revenues of the town, and he was "Judge of Cutcherry, in which all matters and things, civil and criminal, wherein the natives only, the subjects of the Great Mogul were concerned, were adjudicated." On assuming charge of his office he found that the most stirring feuds, which were committed by the *Mahomedan* in the city, were committed by the

Mitter," and he addressed himself most vigorously and most fearlessly to the reforms of these abuses, and with so much success that he was soon enabled to congratulate the Court of Directors on the enjoyment of a revenue of not less than 120,000 Rs. a year! Within a century, the revenues of the Company have been raised to Twenty-seven Crores and a half. One of the first duties he undertook, was to reform the collection of the land rents; and we extract the following items from his report. The town of Calcutta was divided into four principal districts: Des Calcutta, Govindpore, Bontanooty, and Bazar Calcutta. The four divisions comprised 5472 begahs, on which the Company received ground rent, at the rate of 3 Sa. Rs. per annum. Excluding of these lands, there were 738 begahs which paid no ground rent, making in all, 6208 begahs. But within the Company's boundary, that is, within the circle of the *Mahratta* ditch, there were also 3050 begahs of ground,—in the four districts of Simlah, Molungs, Mirzapore, and Hogulcooreah—possessed by proprietors independent of Government, which appear also to have paid no rent. Mr. Holwell explains this distinction by stating that when the imperial firman which gave the English a right to purchase these towns, arrived, the *Zemindars* of these four districts could not be prevailed on to alienate their lands, and had therefore remained distinct and independent. The 6205 begahs of the Company's ground were computed to contain 9451 houses, at the same ratio, calculated to contain 5267. Holwell moreover says: The proprietors of the above 14,718 houses for distinction sake, I will call Principal tenants, or holders of pottahs, who have again their lodgers, or under-tenants, within the limits of their respective pottahs. He then proceeds to throw over his former calculation of 14,718, and supposes, that each begah of the Company's ground—excluding the rent free—and each begah of the independent *zemindars*, contains six houses, which would give the number of houses at 51,132; he then multiplies this sum by 8, "a very moderate estimate of the inhabitants contained in each house," and finds the number of souls in Calcutta 409,056, "constant inhabitants, without reckoning the multitude that daily come in and return." This is the first and unquestionably the most accurate census we have of Calcutta.

Mr. Simms's Report gives us the following data, regarding the area, the houses, and the population of the City,—for it is now a See—one century after the estimate drawn up by Mr. Holwell.

Land comprised within the Jurisdiction of the Municipal Commissioners, 10,969  
The Maidan, or plain, on three sides of Fort William, including the Jail, the Cathedral and Cooly Bazar, ... 8,564  
Fort William, ... 521  
Tolly's Nullah, west of Allipore bridge, ... 70

Begahs, 15,116

or seven square miles 516 acres.

The Residences in Calcutta, are thus described in 1850:

One storied houses, ...	5850
Two storied do. ...	6488
Three storied do. ...	731
Four storied do. ...	120
Five storied do. ...	1
Huts, ...	49,445
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>62,565</b>

Approximate population, ... 361,369

It is evident, that Mr. Holwell's calculation is very wide of the mark. It is certain, that the native inhabitants were not so closely packed together a century ago as they are now, and he is, therefore, manifestly wrong in assuming that there were six houses in each begah, and eight inhabitants in each house. The number of houses in 1751—which he has fixed for the 5472 begahs of rent paying ground, appears to be the result of actual enumeration; and we think it may be fairly assumed that the total number of houses in the town, did not exceed 14,718, which would give rather less than two to a begah, and if we allow, as at present, five inhabitants to each house, we shall have a population of 73,590 for the year 1750.

The difference between the area of Calcutta in that year, and the year 1850, it is impossible to reconcile. Mr. Holwell makes the number of begahs included within the *Mahratta* ditch, 9,255; Mr. Simms, 15,115. The latter is, of course, the correct return.

The number of places of Christian Worship at present in Calcutta, stands thus:

Church of England, ...	8
Church of Scotland, ...	1
Free Church of Scotland, ...	1
Roman Catholic, ...	5
Independents, ...	2
Baptists, ...	3
Greek, ...	1
Armenian, ...	1

There is one Chinese temple, and One Jewish synagogue.

The number of *Mahomedan* Mosques is 74, and of *Hindoo* temples, 167. The number of begahs occupied by the former, is 94, whereas in 1750, the "Moor's Mosques" occupied about 154 begahs. The ground attached to the *Hindoo* temples at present is about 101 begahs; in 1750, the ground belonging to "Gentoo Idols," was about 134.

We have no record of the number of Tanks a century ago, but there is a memorandum of "grounds bought by devout persons to make tanks, 63 begahs." At present, the number does not fall short of 1048, and the area occupied by them, is 6484 begahs, or about 216 acres, which is equal to one-thirteenth the area occupied by private property.

The Municipal funds of this great city in 1840, amounted to the insignificant and contemptible sum of Rs. 339,055; about £34,000 sterling! Of this sum, Rs. 268,429, were obtained from the House Assessment, and Rs. 70,626 from the carriage and cattle tax. The wheel tax is about to be abolished, and the Native community is remonstrating against any increase in the House Tax; the municipal revenues of the city of Palaces will, in that case, be reduced to 26,842 Rs. The number of vehicles and cattle which furnished the wheel tax, will give a correct idea of the con-

vehicles which enter for admission in Calcutta.

Four Wheeled Carriages on springs, drawn by two Horses, .....	676
Four Wheeled ditto, on ditto drawn by one horse, .....	1889
Two Wheeled ditto, drawn by one or two horses, .....	884
Keranchies, hackeries, and carts, .....	1891
Biding Horses or Ponies, .....	426
Draught Horses, .....	2850
Draught Ponies or Tatsoos, .....	2008

It will be interesting to ascertain what number of the four and two wheeled carriages were owned by Natives, as it will give us some correct idea of the state of penury and destitution to which the tyranny of Government has reduced the Native population. We shall endeavor to make the necessary enquiries on the subject.

Such is Calcutta, the metropolis of the British Empire in the East, the centre of a political power which extends from Peshawar to Cape Comorin, in the years before the new era of Railways commences. What aspect will this City present in 1900, when the "Presidency is covered with a complete net" of Railroads, and every mart and province in the interior is united to this common centre by this meshless instrument?

**UNION BANK STATEMENT.**—A correspondent of the *Englishman and Bengal Hurkury* has undertaken on behalf of the Auditors, or the Committee, to give us those explanations of the printed Report of the Auditors, which we called for last week, to render it comprehensible to the uninitiated. We attach no censure to the Auditors. They were required by the Committee to verify certain given statements, and they were obliged to confine their report to the schedule put into their hands. It was the business of the Committee to have laid before their constituents, the shareholders of the Bank, who, in addition to the loss of the whole of their capital, had been assessed to the tune of half a million sterling, a short, simple, intelligible report of the state of that bankrupt concern on the 31st of December last. The report was required not for the Creditors, but for the Proprietors. They were naturally anxious to learn, what was the exact amount of the liabilities yet remaining unpaid, and the source from which it was expected to be drawn. All this might have been given in a single column. Instead of this simple statement, the Committee have thought fit to publish the meagre and incomprehensible report of the Auditors, a long row of figures without any explanation; and when it is urged that this statement requires explanation, the representative of the Auditors and the Committee thinks fit to come forward and bully those who ask for it. Is this the mode in which these gentlemen think they can best acquit themselves of a public trust? As to the charge of ignorance, which this writer brings against us, we most fully admit it. If we had understood the accounts, we should have required no further illumination. Nine-tenths of the unfortunate shareholders of the Bank are in precisely the same state of ignorance with ourselves; and it was for men in this state of darkness that a bright and clear report was required. That the report of the Auditors was obscure, is not even established by the fact, that the explanations have been given to elucidate it have been so simple in length. These explanations, which have been so hardly and so reluctantly given, have plainly rendered the position of the Bank and its shareholders on the 31st of De-

cember more intelligible, and have put us in possession of the following statement of its liabilities to it.

The Report of the 22nd January 1848, which escaped our observation last week, stated the liabilities at Rs. 68,51,710. In April of the same year, the Committee estimated them at Rs. 67,22,209; but although the latest statement is generally considered the most correct, in this case it has been found deficient, and the sum to be made good to the Creditors of the Bank, is now stated at, .....

Of this sum, there has been adjusted or paid from the realized Assets of the Bank, .....

Leaving a balance of .....

Of this sum again, there has been paid from the assessment of the Shareholders to the 31st of December last, .....

Leaving to be paid up a sum of Rs. 18,87,021. Towards the liquidation of this sum, there is in hand, and in the Bank of Bengal, and in Promissory Notes, and a deposit "especially appropriated to abide certain specific claims," about Rs. 4,73,248. Supposing these sums to be paid, there will still be required a sum of Rs. 14,13,773 to secure the complete liquidation of all claims. The amount of assessment still due from defaulters, is Rs. 17,20,431. It is, therefore, a matter of importance to the shareholders to ascertain, what portion of this sum may be considered recoverable; and for this purpose, we require a list of the defaulters, and of the sums which they were assessed.

We have been told that, we should have waited for the "detailed statement," which the Executive Committee has directed to be prepared, and which is to be published as soon as ready. But this detailed statement is to tell us only "how and where each asset of the Bank has been disposed of, since its suspension." Such a statement will be important, more especially if it shows that there are any farther assets likely to be available for the liquidation of the claims; but it will not tell the Shareholders what sum yet remains to be paid; or what chance there is of recovering the assessment in default, or what is to be done regarding the balance which will remain due. This "statement," will not inform the Shareholders of the present state of the process of liquidation, nor of the prospects which lie before them. Neither can these important particulars be obtained from the Auditor's Report, already published, which was confined to the "points scheduled" to them.

At the risk of being pronounced an incorrigible donkey, we must still venture to ask "One interested," who writes on behalf of the Auditors and the Committee, for one little bit of illumination regarding the question of Interest. He says, "all the creditors know very well, that interest was calculated on their claims up to the date of the scheme, 25th September 1848, and then ceased so far as the scheme was concerned." Now, as we are not Creditors we happen to know nothing on the matter; and we desire, therefore, to enquire,—and we do so with that profound diffidence and humility which becomes us on such an occasion—where we are to look for this item of Interest in the Statement of the Auditors, and whether, any mention of it is likely to appear in that detailed statement, showing, how and where each asset of the Bank has been disposed of, since its suspension." The Auditors

give us the "total amount of outstanding liabilities of the Bank" at the date of its suspension, January 1848." The spokesman of the Creditors tells us, that interest was calculated on these sums in favor of the Creditors to the 25th September 1848. Is that amount of interest to be added to the original liabilities; if so, what is the amount of interest for which the Shareholders are liable?

Since this was written the question of the explicitness of the Auditor's accounts has been completely cast into the shade by the following ominous sentence of the Chief Justice reported in yesterday's *Hurkury*:—"The Act differed from the English Acts, and the directions as to the forms of the schedules were exceedingly confused and to some extent inapplicable. No separate memorials of retiring shareholders, or of incoming shareholders, had ever been filed. It might possibly become a question whether any Memorial but the Memorial of 1845, was within the Act." That will stop promotion for many a long year.

**THE LATE CAPT. J. D. CUNNINGHAM.**—We have recently had occasion to notice the decease of this lamented officer, just after he had again been brought on staff employ, and a new career of honourable exertion was opened before him. Both the *Bombay Times* and the *Bombay Telegraph* have published long and interesting narratives of those military and political exertions, and those literary labors, by which his Indian life has been distinguished. He was the son of the well known Allan Cunningham, and equally with his two brothers, Major Cunningham, of the Engineers, and Peter Cunningham, the author of the best descriptive we have of London, inherited the literary taste of his father. He accompanied Sir Claude Wade, when that officer for the first time forced the Khyber Pass in 1839. He was subsequently sent on a Mission to Chinese Tartary, and eventually rewarded by the Police Residency at Bhopal, worth 1500 Rs. a month. During his residence in the North West, he had been indefatigable in his researches into the history, habits, and religious institutions of the Sikhs, and a year or two ago, he published the result of his labors in a History of the Sikhs; one of the most important contributions which has ever been made to our local literature. It is unquestionably the most learned and valuable work on this subject which has yet been published, and it is likely to become a standard authority. Unfortunately, in the last Chapter of this work, when treating of our Sutledge campaign, he availed himself of the public document which had been officially entrusted to him, and lifted up the veil of secrecy which had previously covered these transactions, and gave us a glimpse of the truth. His disclosures are said to have given umbrage to those whose reputation is associated with this campaign, and the Court of Directors were prevailed upon to direct him to be removed from his political office and remanded to his corps; that is, to reduce his allowances by the sum of 1000 Rs. a month. So signal an example of the displeasure of the Directors, has given a permanent importance and an official authenticity to the statements in this work regarding the campaign of the Sutledge, which might otherwise have been considered as mere gossip. They now belong to the accredited facts of this interesting period, and will be incorporated with every future history of India. It was an act of singular indiscretion in those who considered themselves bound by Captain Cunningham's engagements, to give them a character and importance by publicly announcing

world that they had been drawn from sources, and were therefore entitled to credit. But the historical inaccuracy of his human affairs—F. Capistrano—was removed from his post for the use of official documents without mention of the public authorities, by Major Durand, for whose defense which appeared in the *Colombo* is most extensive and the most useful was the use of official documents, and the sanction of the Governor, the subordinate, but for the subject of holding it up to public scorn—One may say, a horrible crime may not even look for a last defense—It may please the laudatory column from Captain Cunningham written only ten days before his death, as it would to show the deep interest which he continued to take in the archeological researches.

• **Momentary Misery** is busy, depicting the invaluable re-  
 lish of the Whiles To-  
 just been there. "Jo thinks the Top of the time of  
 Anoka, although, of a extraordinary enclosure, some have  
 more recent." He has found some stettin bottles contain-  
 ing relics, and use an actual letter (one alphabetical  
 relic) in *Isk*, the oldest thing of the kind p-chance know  
 to exist.  
 "I imagine *Isk* relics will almost exceed *Isk* inter. The  
 houses of Adjunta, &c. They were too *Isk* tion of  
 the *Isk* of *Isk* et al. of *Isk* of *Isk* of *Isk* of *Isk* of *Isk* of  
*Isk* and *Isk*—and it is no small pleasure to  
 reflect that my residence in *Isk* brought about the de-  
 velopment of this monument, and that of others, and so led  
 the way to many important antiquarian results."

**REPORT OF THE GANGES STRAIN NAVIGATION COMPANY.**—We have at length been furnished with a report of the Ganges Steam Navigation Company, the first we have yet seen; but it has reference more to the past accounts of the Company than to its present position and prospects. It appears that the accounts of the Company, which had fallen into a state of confusion, were cleared up and put in order over the year to Mr. J. G. Gordon, the Agent of the Company at Benares, and that his Report was read at a meeting of the Shareholders at that city, on the 14th of September, 1860, at which, besides Mr. Gordon, three European and three Native gentlemen were present. A statement of the affairs of the Company anterior to December, 1847, had previously been prepared in Calcutta by Mr. J. C. Murray, who appears to have bestowed no extraordinary pains in the execution of his task, and to have succeeded in drawing up a Report which proved in the highest degree satisfactory.

A similar statement has been drawn up by Mr. Gordon, extending from December 1847 to December 1849. These documents are all published in detail in the present Report, but the reader would be little the wiser for any recognition of them. In reference to the secrecy in which the accounts of this Association have hitherto been veiled, we have the following remarks in Mr. Gordon's Report. "After a careful review of all the books and documents submitted to my inspection for the elucidation of the accounts of the Company, I cannot help recording my opinion, that although no account can be offered for the want of proper accounts, and for the secrecy alleged to have been observed towards the body of Shareholders by Colquhoun, yet there can be no question as to the gross and shameful misdeeds of the Company, and that the Shareholders much time and attention to the Company."

It appears from the present Report, that the capital paid up by the Proprietors, amounted to Five millions of Rupees; but "experience has shown that the undertaking was as that of the Government Company, and not a private

commenced upon under the Company was capital than that subscribed for the purpose of contracting therefore, under the new arrangement, the sum of large loans; and if we are to amount to about the same still due upon them appear. Report speaks of 20 lakhs of Rupees; but the Company in the flourishing condition would be to suppose such terms of confidence, it is difficult to suppose, that there will be at any one period, ing off the "excess" would be no obstacle to an after which there are immediate division of single sharehold- per share, as yet, not a received, the feeling by perceptive with much, not the least for freight for eight sure, that the 1st of May to the 31st of months, from amounted to the sum of Rs. December, it was considerably in excess of 10 lakhs for the seventeen preceding

months. As far as relates to the success of these The "Chunar," for neither the inland nor the Eastern Ganges Company, can as yet be fairly said to have succeeded,—have been the enormous price of coal at the upper stations, and the constant grounding of the boats through the shallowness of the river: The price of coal is not likely to be reduced, until the mines in the neighbourhood of the Ganges come to be worked. But we are happy to see an announcement, that the *Chunar*, a vessel belonging to the Ganges Company, has just accomplished her journey to Allahabad, and back again, in thirty-five days, a feat which has never before been performed at the present season of the year. It is a great thought, that it is hoped that the improvement of the channel of the river, which this speed indicates, was to be attributed to the labors of Lieutenant General North, the Engineer officer, who has been making extraordinary efforts to keep open a deep channel at all seasons of the year. But we are glad to think that, although his labors have been successful to a very gratifying extent, yet the extraordinary performance of the *Chunar* is to be ascribed chiefly to the unusual quantity of rain which fell in the North West some time ago, by which the hill streams were swelled to an extraordinary extent, and an additional depth of between three or four feet was suddenly given to the Ganges. About five weeks ago, the worst season of the river,—that from Puleesh to Allahabad,—was thus rendered perfectly navigable, and this alone, and not the efforts of the Government, accomplished of the voyage to and from Allahabad by the *Chunar* in thirty-five days, and by the *Lady Thackwell* in thirty-seven days.

**COTTON CULTIVATION NEAR COMORIN.**—The home journals have recently given us some very gratifying indications of the activity which has been manifested by the gentlemen at Manchester, who are interested in the importation of Cotton from India. They have shown that it need not require such elaborate notions of hothouse culture as we have long thought necessary, but can be raised upon nothing more than cool air and water, with hardly any manure, and without the aid of the India Company for not having done every thing for them, and we are happy to find that these remarks on their supinities have not been without a salutary effect. The Manchester Chamber of Commerce, has been induced to send out the ablest man they could find, to Mr Bombay Presidency, to examine the districts where the Cotton is produced, with his own eyes, and to ascertain from his observations whether the quality was equal to what he had cognized, and to report back to the Chamber of Commerce of superior Cotton to England, and what are the means by which they may be obtained, and sent to be rewarded. Mr. Mackay

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now greatly shaken, if not altogether destroyed, by a statement in a daily contemporary, that Mr. Thomas Holroyd was his moving principle, and would be his managing Director. Mr. Holroyd may be, and we doubt not is, a very able and honest man, but he has been always unfortunate, and is known among us chiefly as a wild and reckless speculator. The prospects of any Company confided to his management, would we fear be seriously compromised in the opinion of the public, if not also in reality, by his rashness and his speculations, and though we ardently desire a competition in the Eastern Seas, we fear we are still at a great distance from the realization of our wishes.

**THE UNPOSTED.**—About a fortnight ago, the *Englishman* called attention to the fact that there were no less than thirty-seven Ensigns at various stations, waiting with their youths open, till the Adjutant General should terminate the uncertainty of their position by posting them to various regiments. Fortunately, the next General Order dispersed the young gentlemen over half the Presidency, and the subject was allowed to drop. Before it dies out altogether, we wish to call attention for the tenth time, to the evils which result from allowing these young men, to hang loose upon society by delaying their being posted to regiments. A young man arrives in Bengal with a commission, and instead of being at once directed to join his regiment, is ordered to "do duty with—Regiment at Barrackpore, or Dinapore, or Benares." This "doing duty" being interpreted, means nothing more or less, than loitering about some particular regiment, learning the goose step, and playing billiards. The officers with whom the cadets are appointed to do duty, regard them as birds of passage, and give them very little concern regarding their welfare or instruction. They are left to themselves, to do evil or to do good, and they generally, from sheer wantonness, take to the former. We have lately had an instance at Bombay of an unposted Ensign getting into debt to the tune of Rs. 13,000, and we believe, no small proportion of the embarrassment of the officers in the army is to be traced to the little care taken of the Unposted. The remedy for all this is obvious, and would have been adopted years ago, but that the Court of Directors appear to be the last body in the world to appreciate the advantages they have obtained from the increased facilities of communication. It was all very well, when a letter was six months in reaching India, and a reference required twelve months for a reply, that the lack of posting Ensigns to different Regiments, should rest exclusively with the Command-in-Chief. At the present time, however, when the Court of Directors receive every fortnight, and in less than six weeks, exact intelligence of every vacancy in every regiment, there is no longer any reason for allowing the cadets to waste the precious months, between their arrival and proceeding to join their regiments, in idleness and indulgence. Let every cadet be posted at the *India House* to the Regiment to which he is to be attached, and be directed to join it as soon as he arrives. He will then be at once secured from the temptations of idleness, and avoid the dangers of a long journey as the worst season of the year. At the present moment, one of the young men about to join their regiments, has to proceed from Barrackpore to Peshawar, a journey of fifteen hundred miles, at the worst season of the year. This would have been prevented, had he received his commission in England, and proceeded to join his regiment in January.

**THE CAPE.**—We regret to record intelligence of a very melancholy nature from the Cape, which has reached Calcutta through the Mauritius journals. A considerable degree of discontent has been for some months manifested by the Kaffir population of the Cape, and the recent "deposition" of Sandilli, has apparently brought matters to a crisis. The outbreak appears to have been well planned, the Governor, Sir Harry Smith, having been surrounded in Fort Cox, a place to the north-east of Graham's town, by ten thousand of the insurgent Kaffirs. His Excellency had only fifteen hundred men with him, and from the scanty information that has reached us, it is doubtful, whether even these are all Europeans. The Kaffirs have attacked the Mission stations, and Military villages, and butchered every living being within their reach. Colonel Macdonald had been worsted in a pass called the Keiskamma pass, after a severe skirmish with the Kaffirs, whom he at length succeeded in dislodging, but with the loss of twelve men killed, and nine wounded. Among the killed was Assistant-Surgeon Sharp, attached to the mounted Cape Police. Several other skirmishes have also taken place, and the total loss is represented by the *Mauritius* at 107 killed and wounded. Worse than all, the whole body of Kaffir Police, Four hundred strong, is said to have gone over to the enemy, and were already acting against the colonists in the field.

Such is the account which has reached Calcutta, and though the details may be a little exaggerated, the facts of Sir H. Smith being shut up, and of the treachery of the Kaffir Police appear to be unquestionable, and we fear, another Kaffir war has been commenced. We believe, and we say it with the Protection of Aborigines' Society before our eyes,—that the only mode in which permanent peace can be secured for the colonists, is to allow them to use their own strength for the reduction of the Kaffirs.

By the latest information we perceive that Sir Harry Smith has effected his escape from Fort Cox, though with considerable loss. The Burghers are organizing themselves into corps in every direction, and 500 volunteers have started from Cape town by Steamer. The attempt of Colonel Somerset to join Sir H. Smith at Fort Cox was defeated, with the loss of two officers and fifteen men killed. Sir H. Smith will have 3,000 men under his command when the reinforcement reach him.

**HALF YEARLY REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS.**—The half yearly report of this body has been published entire in the *Chronicle*, and exhibits a melancholy spectacle. The Commissioners have raised the sum of Rs. 1,60,512 and they have expended Rs. 1,43,640, the heaviest items in the disbursements being their own salaries, the expenses of collection and road-making and road cleansing. The first of these items is put down at Rs. 10,500, the second at Rs. 10,315, and the third and fourth at Rs. 88,213. With this eighty thousand rupees, the Commissioners have purchased broken stone from the House of Correction, and mended ten roads in different places,—and cleaned the streets frequented by Europeans. The carriage tax, has, it appears, produced little more than Rs. 16,000, during the half year, and even this has been collected with great difficulty and many delays, arising from the strenuous opposition of the Calcutta patriots. Mr. Biddie, the house tax is more productive, the amount realized having been Rs. 1,27,185, but even this is wretchedly inadequate for the wants of a great city like Calcutta. The expense

of the Steam Engines at Ghyaspur Ghaut, has, it appears, been Rs. 1,116 a month, rather a heavy charge, but it is believed that this expenditure may be curtailed, and even if it is not, the public has the satisfaction of knowing that Col. Forbes "has taken a great interest in the steam Engine." Far be it from us to blame the Commissioners either for the wantonness of their finances or the meagreness of their work, as we well know that the former is not their fault, and that the latter is dependent on the former; but we hope that when a new municipality is formed, it will consent to tax itself and the town at a far heavier rate than is now the case, and also obtain from Government, some portion of the revenue derived from the Canals, or the excise, or the ground tax. According to Mr. Simms' census of the population, the municipal tax is equal to fourteen annas a head on every individual, but as it is paid almost exclusively by the wealthier classes, it is far too limited either for the wants or the wealth of the metropolis of the East.

Since this was written, we have received the resolutions—proposed below—of the Public Meeting held on Tuesday, the 25th inst., for the purpose of memorializing Government respecting the Calcutta Municipality. The first resolution is merely an introduction to that which follows, but we cannot give our adherence to the prayer contained in the second clause, as we believe that any elective scheme that can be framed, if based upon a property qualification, will end in the nomination of native members, and a Municipality entrusted to their exclusive control would be as much worse than the present one, as King Stork is worse than King Log. To the principle of the third clause we heartily agree, but with a conviction that its effects will be neutralized by the preponderance of native voters. The fourth resolution is one which we have upheld every since the municipality commenced its operations, but, we fear, there is less chance than ever of seeing the sources of revenue alluded to, handed over for the improvement of the town. The fifth resolution depends upon the fourth, and the sixth is useless, unless it is intended to confine the rule of non-payment to the elected Commissioners.

11.—Proposed by Mr. W. Thoburn, seconded by Mr. S. Bell.—"That the existing law of the provisions of the Draft Act for constituting Commissioners for the town of Calcutta in relation to property, be revised and amended for the purposes for which it is intended."

12.—Moved by Mr. Narmath, seconded by Mr. Peterson.—"That this meeting is of opinion that the Town of Calcutta should be divided into Commissioners as far as practicable, and that this should be effected by dividing the town into a greater number of divisions. Each division returning a committee, which committee shall send a delegate to a meeting of the Board."

13.—Proposed by Mr. Narmath, seconded by Mr. A. B. Macdonald.—"That occupation alone to confer the right of franchise; and that the rate of such franchise be raised considerably above that proposed in the Draft Act."

14.—Proposed by Mr. W. Thoburn, seconded by Mr. S. Bell.—"That as the present assessment of the town is inadequate for the purposes of Municipal improvement, the Government should be petitioned to increase the Ground Rent, Abkari tax and fees, and to increase the credit of the Police and Court of Requests to the Municipal Fund as recommended by the Municipal Committee which met in 1858 (see page 1147 of the report)."

15.—Proposed by Mr. C. J. Montague, seconded by Mr. Beatty.—"That should the addition of three funds be found inadequate for the necessary improvement of the town, then and not till then, the assessment be raised to meet the deficiency and not to exceed 7½ per cent. agreeably to Act of Parliament."

16.—Proposed by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Beatty.—"That only such persons should be appointed to act as commissioners who will act for the public benefit and not for pay."

#### WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29.

Some of our journals have been stating that Mr. Bayley, being one of the "999" service, has been in-











orders a vigorous prosecution of the discovery of any persons  
their Agents or friends in Calcutta.













# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. & O. CO.'S STEAMER "MAJESSTIC," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Buxar, and the Intermediate Ports, (Calcutta, Ceylon, Aden, Yeuung, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer, will be despatched from this Office, on Monday, the 7th Proximo, at 10 o'clock, and that all other packets will be despatched hence on Tuesday, the 8th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kedgee, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Huddellon* can be received after 5 P. M. of that date.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL BY BOMBAY.  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 31st of the ensuing Month of May for the departure of the next Steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Buxar—Notice is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be forwarded for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Wednesday, the 25th Proximo, and that the first set of the Overland Packets will be cleared at, and despatched from the Office, on Monday, the 27th Idem.

J. R. BUCKLEY BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, 7th March, 1857.

THE FIVE PER CENT. LOAN.—The Calcutta correspondent of the *Agra Messenger* has stated that orders have positively been received from home for the close of the Five Per Cent. Loan, and that they have been sent up to the Governor General at Peshawar. We do not think it likely that any individual can have been able thus to obtain access to the financial secrets of Government, in a matter of so much importance as the closing of a loan, by which the value of forty millions sterling of Government securities will be affected to the extent of five or six per cent. If any such orders have been sent out to Calcutta, it is impossible that the fact can have transpired in this country. The despatch has been deposited in Mr. Dorn's box, which is sealed with one of Clubb's patent locks, and baffles all the curiosity of the public. Nor is the close of the loan likely to be known till after it has been completed, some Saturday evening at sunset, by the publication of a little *Calcutta Gazette* extraordinary. But it is quite possible that the Four and Twenty Directors may not have been so anxious to keep the secret inviolate, and, indeed, it is currently stated that the report comes from Leadenhall Street, and has been communicated to certain members of the mercantile community in Calcutta. We are fully prepared to credit the rumour. For a considerable time past we have maintained that the finances of India were in a more prosperous condition than it was the fashion to suppose, and the close of the loan will give additional weight to this opinion. It will show that the income of the country is again equal to its expenditure, although that expenditure has been permanently augmented by the sum of about Seventy lakhs of Rupees a year, the interest of the debts which have been contracted since we first crossed the Indian Sea. We have so much confidence in the elasticity of the finances of India, that we expect shortly to see a substantial balance of revenue applicable to those works of public utility, on which Government appear at length to have entered with a spirit commensurate with their responsibility.

In addition to the roads which are in progress in our older provinces—Bengal always excepted—and in the Punjab, the Canals which have been commenced, or have been conditionally sanctioned, involve an expenditure of Two Crores of Rupees, and now that the Government is no longer constrained to borrow, we feel confident that the second section of the Rail will be among the first objects of solicitude with the Court. We trust, that no effort will be made during the next ten years to pay off any portion of the loans,—which fall short of Fifty Crores,—but that every farthing of surplus revenue will be sacredly devoted to public improvements, roads, canals, bridges, railways, and vernacular education.

INCORPORATION OF SIKHS WITH THE REGULAR ARMY.—We ask the reader's particular attention to a very important General Order issued by the Commander-in-Chief, and signed by Colonel Tucker, the Adjutant General of the Army, which will be found in a subsequent column. It lays down regulations for the admission of Sikhs into the regular regiments at this Presidency. This measure is in exact accordance with that wise policy which has ever characterized the conduct of the British Government, of converting the opponents into the defenders of its authority. Happily for us, there is no feeling of patriotism among the various tribes of India. Those who fight against us one day, are ready to fight under our own banners the next; and, generally speaking, they are faithful to their salt. Thus, before the Goorkah war was closed, we had regiments of Goorkahs organized and commanded by our own officers. The troops of each country which we have successively conquered, have always been ready to consider that their services belonged to the ruler, de facto, and they have felt no hesitation in transferring their allegiance, and their swords to their new masters. The determined hostility manifested towards us by the soldiers of Manjeet Singh seemed to suggest the propriety of postponing this incorporation to a more distant period than has been hitherto deemed necessary; but, our conquest of that country appears to have been so complete, and the extinction of all hostile organization throughout the Punjab to have been so rapid and decisive, that it is no longer deemed hazardous to put arms into the hands of those whom we have found the most difficult to conquer of all the tribes of India, and to enlist them under our own colours. By this measure we are happily enabled to afford employment for a large body of the valorous warriors of the Punjab, and prevent their plotting mischief. By incorporating them with our own regiments, we disperse them over India, in small bodies, and thus neutralize any feeling of opposition which they may yet cherish. At the same time, we introduce a new element of safety into our own army, which has hitherto been rather too exclusively composed of men of one class and region. We have now Hindoos and Mahomedans, Goorkahs and Sikhs, mingled in our army at this Presidency, and we are no longer at the mercy of a body of men who from community of lineage, religion, habits, and feelings, might enter into formidable combinations. The security of the empire is abundantly promoted by this mixture in our native armies, while the European troops are not only our mainstay in the day of battle, and in the face of an enemy, but occupy the position which the Marines do in our ships of war. We are happy to perceive that the Commander-

in-Chief has very wisely determined, if possible, to keep up the national distinctions of the Sikhs who may be admitted into our regiments. They would lose half their value if they melted into the Hindoo mass of the regiment.

EDUCATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.—We have long been waiting for an opportunity of noticing a brief article which appeared two or three weeks ago in the *Delhi Gazette*, in reply to some remarks of ours relative to Haileybury, and the Education of the young Civilians. It will be found among our selections. The Editor says, that "we like to gain the reputation of a dashing liberal writer, without the inconvenient notoriety of extreme opinions. After having, with exemplary toil, collected the worst features of some particularly rotten system, and just as the indignant reader is prepared to join in the cry of 'away with it,' the cautious editor proposes some peddling reform, which would increase by protracting it the existing evil," and he considers this tendency to have been displayed more strikingly than ever in our recent article on Haileybury College. With the Editor's assumption that "we like to gain the reputation of a dashing liberal writer," we have nothing to do. There are some of our contemporaries who seem to entertain an opinion directly the reverse, but the public can have no possible interest in deciding which is correct or fallacious. Whether, however, the proposal to reform the system of tuition at Haileybury is a peddling reform, or not, appears to us to be a question of real importance, and we have some hope that the Editor will not be indisposed to qualify it, when he has looked more closely into its bearings. Practically speaking, we have proposed all the reform of which the system is at present susceptible. The *Delhi Gazette* proposes the complete abolition of the system; that is to say, the entire extinction of the present College. "It is incontrovertible that the youths ought to be left to their own tuition." But he appears to forget that Haileybury was established by Act of Parliament, and cannot be abolished, except by the same authority; and that there is not the most remote chance of any such root and branch measure for three years to come. We have, therefore, been applying ourselves to the question of an immediate reform. We have for two years past been urging a reconsideration and reconstituting of the scheme of instruction; we have importuned the Directors to emancipate themselves from the influence of those individual predilections under which they act, and to adapt the system of education to the wants of this country, and of the Indian service. We have pointed out the inconsistency of devoting so large a portion of the very limited time of the students to the acquisition of a dead and difficult language. The great object of Haileybury was to bring to maturity that system of tuition, which, when engrained on the liberal education of an English gentleman, should most effectually qualify the Civilian for the administration of public business, civil, criminal, fiscal, and diplomatic, in this country. In this respect, the institution has assuredly not answered the expectations under which it was established, and the young men who distinguish themselves in the public service in India, are more in-

debted for their success to the tuition they received before they went to Haileybury, and to the force of natural genius, than to the studies they were required to pursue there. It is this system of education, designed for the exigencies of the Indian service, which we wish to see reformed and perfected. After Haileybury has been in existence for more than thirty years, its scheme of tuition appears to be universally condemned, at least, beyond the precincts of Leadenhall Street; and, we have yet to ascertain what are those branches of education to which the Indian Civilian ought to devote the last year or two of his residence in England, to qualify him for the duties to which he is destined. We cannot admit the idea that this is a mere peddling reform. The efficiency of the service, now and hereafter, depends mainly upon it. Whether this course of study shall be pursued after 1853 at Haileybury, or under private tuition, or at the Universities, is a minor question compared with the importance of having the course itself fixed, by the mature judgment and experience of the best authorities in England and in India. We have been most anxious to shake the implicit confidence which the Court of Directors felt in their present educational arrangements, and which no one else shares with them, and to induce them to order the local Governments to appoint a Committee of the ablest of its functionaries, to institute a thorough investigation of its results.

As to the total abolition of the College at Haileybury, and the adoption of an entirely new mode of tuition which the Editor of the *Delhi Gazette*, in common with many others, has suggested, we think that it should be preceded by a distinct and clear settlement of the subjects of tuition. When these have been ascertained, it will be time to enquire whether this curriculum of study requires a separate educational establishment, or whether it can be pursued to advantage at any, or all, our existing institutions. We are not certain that there may not be advantages connected with the congregation of the civilians at an institution, which is intended to provide all the means and appliances necessary for completing the English branch of their English education, which would outweigh the evils connected with the Haileybury system. We are not certain that the College might not be so reformed and improved as to answer every object for which it was instituted. Many considerations require to be examined and balanced, before any one can be prepared to pronounce with confidence that "the youths ought to be left to their own opinion." We are simple enough to confess that we do not yet see any sufficient clear for the adoption of those "extreme opinions," which the *Delhi Gazette*, has had the courage at once to embrace. We have heard as many arguments advanced in favor of the existing arrangements—with a reform—as we have heard against them, and that by men of large and liberal views, who are uninfected by prejudices, and scarcely even by partialities. Finally, to the proposal which our contemporary makes of sending all the civilians to graduate at the Universities, there appear to be many and most serious objections, to the discussion of which we may perhaps be hereafter induced to return.

CHANDERNAGORE AND MR. ARABTHOON.—It appears that we have not yet done with the forcible abduction of Mr. Arabthoon from the French settlement of Chandernagore. The Judges of the Supreme Court have released him from the grasp of the bailiff, and he has returned

with flying colours to that town; but the British Government has just offered large rewards for the discovery of all those who were engaged as principals, or as accessories in his seizure, and investigations have been commenced at the Police office, which appear likely to end in an action in the Supreme Court. While the case is thus under examination, it would be delicate and unjust to bring it under discussion in the public journals. The papers state that the activity of the British Government has been stimulated by a demand made on the part of the French authorities in India, for the delivory of those who were engaged in the violation of their territory. It is by no means improbable that this may have been the case. The French are not likely to pass over in silence an act which may be construed into a national insult; and the British Government has, therefore, acted with discretion in taking these active measures which may tend to soothe their feelings, and prevent an interchange of angry and troublesome protocols in Europe.

A similar occurrence took place in this town of Serampore some thirty-two years ago. The sand bank opposite Titagar was found to be a very serious obstruction to the navigation of the river, and it was determined by Government to make an attempt to blow it up. All the town turned out to witness the scene. There were at the time eight or ten debtors from the British territories, living under the protection of the Danish flag, and it was supposed that some of them might possibly be led inadvertently to move beyond the boundary of the town, and thus lose the privilege of their Asiatia. The bailiffs accordingly came up from Calcutta armed with writs against them. In the midst of the bustle, while the multitudes assembled on the banks were watching the moment of explosion, with breathless silence, one Mr. Gibson, a tailor, a refugee, who had incautiously moved one or two paces beyond what was supposed to be the limit of protection, was seized by the bailiff and his myrmidons, and hurried down the bank to a boat, which conveyed him to Calcutta, where he was immediately lodged in Jail. It happened that the spot on which he was captured, was Danish soil, and the English bailiff, but the presence of one under protection shook the confidence of all those who had obtained it, and created a deep sensation in the town, both among the governors and governed. The Danish authorities complained of the violation of their territory, and demanded Mr. Gibson's restitution. The case came up before the Supreme Court, and a sketch of the ground was exhibited. Fortunately, Sir Francis Macnaghten, who had recently been passing two or three months at Alden house, at no distance from the spot in question, had become acquainted with the exact limits of the settlement from the Governor, Col. Kretzing, and he at once decided that the ground on which Mr. Gibson was seized was Danish and not English. He was liberated, and returned to Serampore in triumph, and the credit and importance of the town as a sanctuary rose higher than ever. But the Danish Government was perfectly satisfied with the surrender of Mr. Gibson, and asked neither indemnity for the past nor security for the future. "La grande nation," however, will deem it necessary to vindicate the national honor by some very spirited remonstrances, and it is well that the British Government should be prepared to show that it has done every thing in its power to discover and to punish the authors of the outrage.

The case of Mr. Arabthoon has revived the question of a transfer of the French settle-

ments to the British Government. In 1757, Chandernagore was twice as large, and twice as populous as Calcutta. At the end of a century, the one is the seat of a mighty empire, the other has dwindled down into a little town, without commerce, and without interest, the most important unofficial establishment of which is *Jock Macnaghten's* Millinery. Had we not been so long absorbed in the British dominions, would be viewed with as much indignation in France as a similar proposition would have been a hundred years ago. The great republic is not so rich in foreign dependencies as to be able to part with even so insignificant a one as Chandernagore. It would be a dismemberment of the French territory;—a reduction of its colonial establishments;—a sacrifice of national dignity, and the proposal would be scouted in the Assembly.

Neither would it be so easy to fix the compensation, at a sum which the English Government would be disposed to consider it either agreeable or convenient to give. The Danish settlements of Tranquebar and Serampore, which were paid their own expenses, but formed a counter drain on the more profitable colonies in the British West Indies, were sold to the British Government for the sum of Twelve lakhs of Rupees. The French settlements in India paid a revenue of about Four lakhs of Rupees, which is found sufficient to cover the charges of all their establishments. But by the convention of the 7th March 1815, concluded under the direction of that first of diplomatists, Talleyrand, it was decided, "that as compensation for the privilege granted to the East India Company's Government of purchasing at a fixed price the salt prepared in the French settlements over the quantity necessary for the consumption, the Company should pay the French yearly, at Calcutta or Madras, from the 1st of October, 1815, the sum of four lakhs of Rupees." This annuity, which the French Government in Paris applied to the necessities of some of the other colonies, whose revenues are not equal to their expenditures, the French are not likely to part with, except on receiving its full equivalent. It appears very improbable that the value of the French settlements in India would be estimated by them at a less rate than One crore of Rupees, even if the national pride of the nation would consent to barter its "possessions in the East Indies" for a consideration; but a Crore of Rupees is a matter of greater importance to the English Government than a dozen Arabthoons.

THE BOMBAY TIMES AND SIR CHARLES NAPER.—Our contemporary, on the 8th of March, published an article on the reasons offered for having avoided shaming in the discussions about the conquest of Seinde. In that notice he was pleased to observe that "the *Friend of India* was too important an authority in state affairs either to be permitted to maintain silence, or to shift his position, as in the case just referred to, he has done, without assigning better reasons for his conduct than he has given." The *Bombay Times* was never more mistaken in his editorial life than when he supposed that we were any thing like an authority in state affairs; or that any other value was to be attached to any of our views but what they might be intrinsically worth; but he evidently intended the remark as a compliment, and it would be very ungrateful in us to allow it to pass without acknowledgment. But when our worthy brother proceeds to say: "we should be the last person in the world to suspect the *Friend*"

of trucking to Government, or being moved in any way by the receipt of a handsome but well earned salary as Bengalee translator; but we do think not the less, that the diversity of lights in which he is given to view the same object on different occasions—is one of the perplexities which require explanation, "he indulges in an insinuation which is unworthy of a place in his columns. It is much the same as if he were to say in reference to some friend for whom he entertained a very high esteem: "We should be the last person in the world to suspect him of having made away with his wife, but we do think not the less that her sudden disappearance is one of those perplexities that require explanation." If he did not suspect us of trucking, any more than he suspected his friend of putting an end to his wife, he would not make the slightest allusion to the matter. The Editor of the *Bombay Times* is so great a master in the art of writing not to know that one of the strongest modes in which a writer can affirm a thing, is to say that he should be the last person in the world to suspect it.

Now for the perplexity. On the 29th of October, 1838, we stated that we could not join in the eulogies that had been heaped on Lord Auckland for preparing to meet the danger of Russian aggression half way, and that the Affghans war could terminate in nothing but in an extension of our public debt, and a further recognition of the possibility of raising our army.—From this time forth, says the *Bombay Times*, the *Friend of India* was a zealous advocate of the Affghan policy of Lord Auckland. He adds "we quite allow that the Editor apologized for this—that he had received a friendly light on the subject—that he was not at the date referred to aware of the extent, to which Russian intrigues had proceeded." The *Bombay Times* has employed a very unwarrantable expression, when he says that we apologized for our previous opinion. We explain it. We stand up for the dignity of the profession. We cannot suppose any case in which an Editor can ever be called on to apologize for any opinions he may offer on public questions. His duty is to honestly make up his mind on the information before him; and when he finds that it was imperfect or erroneous, candidly to avow his change of opinion, and at the same time to state his reason for altering it. The idea of an apology is far too humiliating to be entertained for a moment. When we first read the Simlah manifesto, we considered the danger of a Russian invasion so remote and improbable, and the risk of sending our armies into Central Asia, far distant from our own resources, so tremendous, that we deprecated the measure in the strongest language. But when we received the number of the *Quarterly Review* in which the machinations of Russia were so distinctly unfolded, and the danger of its intrigues to the stability of our Empire was drawn in such vivid colors,—when we found the litterate opponents of the Whig administration applaud the vigor of their proceedings in Affghanism, we were led to entertain a different view of the danger, and a different opinion of the necessity of the war; and we did not shrink from avowing it. Any journalist whose ideas are stereotyped, and incapable of improvement, is utterly unworthy of public confidence. At this distance of time, however, with Prince Nesselrode's correspondence with Lord Palmerston before us, and Sir John Hobhouse's declaration that it was he who ordered the war, we come back to our old opinion, and take for our text that which the Rev. Mr. ——— took, when, he was required, with the other

Chaplains, to preach a sermon on the Cabul catastrophe, "Would God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan."

As regards Sir Charles Napier, it perplexes us not a little to discern how the *Bombay Times* can find any difficulty in accounting for "the diversity of lights in which we are given to view the same subject on different occasions." He supports this assertion by a reference to the opinions we have given on Sir Charles Napier's proceedings, on three occasions. In March, 1845, we pointed out that "the *Bombay Times* had shown that so large a number of groundless assertions had rarely been condensed in so small a number of pages as those exposed in the first part of Sir William Napier's conquest of Scinde, the errors referred to being committed on Sir Charles Napier's authority." Then, again, on the occasion of Sir Charles's recent address to the Highlanders, when he threw his hands together in an expressive gesture, and said that "the cause was so infamous, a damnable, a worse than damnable lie," we said that "theman could have had no regard for his own character and reputation, who could thus denounce himself by wearing like any Billingsgate fishwife." These two opinions have something like a coincidence. What then is the discrepancy? Why, when the *Bombay Times*, at an intermediate period, charged Sir Charles, the Governor of Scinde, a Lieutenant General in her Majesty's service, and the hero of Meara and Hydabadi, with having knowingly and designedly falsified figures, "we viewed the thing as a perplexity, and could not conceive that any one but a scoundrel would say the thing that was not."—And this is that great diversity of opinion which cannot be accounted for, but by a reference to the salary which the Editor of the *Friend of India* receives from the Government of Bengal, as its vernacular translator. But what, on earth, has the Government of Bengal to do with the reputation of the conqueror and Governor of Scinde? What concern is it of this Government whether the mode in which Scinde was added to the British dominions was laudable or infamous? One might as well suppose its solicitude extended to the treatment of the Raja of Denares, or the Begums of Oude, by Warren Hastings, as to the negotiation of Sir Charles Napier with the Amers. The Governments of each of the Provinces are naturally anxious to maintain their own reputation, in relation to matters entrusted to their responsibility, but it would be a work of most ridiculous supererogation, to encumber themselves with any anxieties regarding any of the historical delinquencies of former Governors, or Governors-General. What afterlife imagination must our Western contemporaries possess, when he can discern any connection between our comments on the proceedings of Sir Charles Napier in Scinde, and the translation of the Government regulations into the vulgar tongue of Bengal.

As to the timidity shown by us in avoiding discussions regarding Scinde, on the plea that others discussed the question too warmly, we most fully and unequivocally admit it. The Scinde question is become an intensely party question; and it is impossible to touch it without exasperating the feelings of either one party or the other. Any attempt to find out a via media would only subject a writer, in the present generations to the cross fire of both parties. It is the gunpowder subject of the day; and we have therefore been most anxious to avoid touching it. We have quite quarrelled enough upon our editorial table without embroiling ourselves in this interminable and exasperating dispute. If necessary, we are prepared most cheer-

fully to harter our reputation for courage for tranquillity. Rather; we act on the maxim that the better part of valor is discretion. We therefore leave the morality of the conquest to the calm and impartial decision of the future historian, and limit ourselves to the humbler duty of watching over the progress of our administration in that province,—to which we owe our best energies, though it should turn out that we came very irregularly by it,—and according with delight all the improvements which we are able to introduce into it.

VERNACULAR STUDIES.—We had occasion last week to allude to the remarkable ignorance of their own tongue exhibited by many of the best educated of young Bengal, and we are now enabled to record a confirmation of our remarks, which appears in the report of the Agra College, an institution which though not the largest, is one of the most efficient in India. At a late examination of the students, at which the Lieutenant Governor was present, the number of scholars on the rolls was stated at Four Hundred and Seven, and the daily attendance at Three Hundred and Eighty-eight. It was not, however, to this point we wish to allude, as the number is not by any means remarkable, but to the fact that every pupil is compelled to devote half his time to the study of his mother tongue, so as not only to become acquainted with its literature, which is far more extensive and respectable than that of Bengal, but also to acquire that perfect mastery over its forms, which so few English students in Bengal ever attain. To English readers this may appear almost a work of supererogation, but Mr. Muir, of whose qualification to pronounce an opinion there can be no question,—believes that nothing is more difficult than to infuse into the Students a knowledge and a love of their own language. So difficult is the study, that only one youth, a Missionnaire, is described as being able to express himself with freedom and elegance in Oorissa. When it is considered that the Oordoo, both from its etymological and grammatical structure, is far less complex than the Bengalee, we think that those who oppose vernacular education, will admit that some study even of their mother tongue, is necessary for the native youths in our Colleges. It is a fact, which we are weary of dwelling into unwilling ears, that the majority of the students in the Colleges of Bengal, cannot speak, far less write, their own language with elegance.

While we are on this subject, we may notice a paragraph which appeared sometime ago in the *Madras Observer*, which we regret to be omitted to notice. It contains an extract from an order of the Court of Directors with regard to the acquisition of the vernacular languages by the European officers of Government. The passage is as follows:

"Extract from a General letter from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated the 21st February, 1838, No. 3. "We desire that it may be laid down and promulgated as a standing rule, that no Member of our service shall hold the appointment of Judge, or of Collector and Magistrate in any District with the language of which he may be unacquainted."

This order suggests rather a curious enquiry. Has any such order ever been received by the Government of Bengal, and, if so, why is it allowed to remain a dead letter? Is there any truth in the rumour, circulated doubtless by malicious individuals, that there are a certain number of highly excellent and decorous orders sent out by the Court of Directors, which are quietly placed upon the shelf, as soon as they are received? If it be so necessary in the

opinion of the Governor of the North West Provinces, and of every person with a grain of common sense in his composition, that even natives should be enabled to employ their own language with freedom and elegance, how much more necessary is it that the European officials, upon whom every thing in our institutions depends, should possess the same facility? Yet, even in Bengal, this order slumbers in peace upon the shelf, and judges, and other functionaries still condemn or acquit men whose accusation and defence they can barely comprehend. We are aware that the new generation of contented assistants, are for the most part conversant with the popular language, but it would be well for the Government of Bengal to keep before them, and occasionally refer to, the valuable document we have quoted above.

**CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.**—The *Hurkaru* in commenting upon our remarks on the Resolutions passed by the Municipal meeting of Tuesday, the Twenty-fifth March, expresses his belief that they were hastily written. Our contemporary is perfectly right in his supposition, as the "Resolutions" did not reach us till within a short time of going to press, but after a perusal of our remarks, we do not feel called upon for any great modification of them, as far as relates to that portion of the subject. With regard, however, to the Municipal Government of Calcutta, we fear that the principles maintained at the meeting, however excellent in the abstract, are not adapted to the state of society in the metropolis of Asia. The two main propositions laid down by the meeting, as far as we can understand them, were that the majority of the wealthier inhabitants of Calcutta should have the management of the Municipal funds, which they partly contribute to create, and that the individuals selected for such management should be unpaid. The other resolutions about the amount of municipal funds, and petitions to Government, are merely subsidiary. We write with much diffidence: but we must say that both these proposals appear inapplicable to Calcutta. It cannot be said in defence of the elective principle in this case, that "taxation without representation is tyranny" because a very high rate of qualification will leave the overwhelming majority of the tax payers unrepresented. The question is, then, narrowed to one of expediency, and we question whether the higher classes in Calcutta are prepared to undertake the management of business, which, if it is to be done, they require unremitting attention. We do not say, or suppose, that there is any inherent unfitness in the European residents of Calcutta for the administration of parish affairs, but there is an insouciance, or to speak plainly, a degree of indolence about them, which brings every measure of the kind speedily to the ground. The few men who are thoroughly fitted for the task, have their hands already full, and to leave the affairs of the town to unpaid amateurs would be simply to entrust it to the Secretary and his Clerks. In support of this remark, let us take even the Meeting held upon this subject. The whole attendance is said not to have exceeded sixty, and comprised a few respectable and able men, and a number of East Indians and Natives, who after passing some sensible resolutions, and appointing a sensible Committee, backed on to the tail of the letter, names which would smother any undertaking of any description.

Again, as to the gratuitous services of the Commissioners, what power can their constituency exercise over men who have nothing to hope or fear? We all know what Calcutta so-

ciety is, and how the temptations of business, a drive, a tiffin, or anything else, will 'attenuate' a public meeting, or even a meeting of shareholders, though called to avert the prospect of an immediate bankruptcy. Every Commissioner will feel, very naturally, that his unpaid agency is a favour conferred on the public, to which he will give as much or as little time as he thinks fit. The unpaid Magistracy and Municipal offices of England present no analogy. They are generally accepted by men who have little to do, and whose small ambition is gratified by the honour. In Calcutta, there are no men of this class, and we have little doubt that after the first year, the honorary Commissionership would be voted an "unmitigated nuisance." We are not quite sure, indeed, whether any men of standing and ability would accept an office so onerous and profitless, with the certainty, moreover, of being remorselessly badgered by the whole herd of newspaper correspondents. We have a very distinct recollection of Government having once offered to give the inhabitants of any division of the town, the most complete command over their own municipal affairs; yet no one could be found to assume the responsibility.

We may, however, be told that it is easy to attack any particular plan, but not so easy to construct another. We do not intend to set ourselves up as unpaid manufacturers of constitutions, but we have watched Calcutta affairs for a good many years, and we think that there are two principles which ought never to be lost sight of. The first of these is, that the European element should predominate over the native, and the second, that the Executive Municipality should act under strong and urgent responsibility. We do not say, we confess, how this last sine qua non is to be obtained except by the appointment of a Government officer or officers, vested with complete sanitary powers, and dependant for his continuance in office upon the proper execution of his duties. Instead of a board of dummies, or debaters, we are very much inclined to vote for a single individual, who shall pay in "wifegiffts" for every separate stench, and in purse for every individual broken-bugzy spring. A quiet hint to the Civil Auditor on the presentation of his monthly bills, would speedily ensure the filling up of obnoxious holes in the roads, or the laying of the dirt which at present chokes the mouths of the Queen's subjects in Calcutta. Such an officer, having but one occupation, and taking an interest in it, would speedily elaborate a practical and permanent system of employing the small funds available for the improvement of the town. We are aware that this suggestion will meet with no favour, either from those who believe in the virtues of elective systems, or from Government. The former suppose that the population of any town are the best managers of the funds they themselves subscribe,—a proposition which though true in Europe, is questionable in the East,—and the latter have far too much on their heads to covet the additional burden of details about tanks, duts, the Chandpal Engine, and the "Gowkhanas." It is, however, we believe, after all, the most practical system, and we have some hope that the Government will at last try the experiment, and, if it should not succeed, we also will vote for an elective municipality, with those from whom we are always sorry to differ.

**MOTIFREIX.**—The *Enterprise* has brought us papers from this settlement to the 21st of March; the chief item of information they contain refers to a most daring robbery perpetrated on the 8th of March in the town of Mou-

mein, which is thus described in the *Moumein Times* of the following day:

"A gang of 60 or more dacoits, in four boats, landed unobserved on the Kaldan side of the river, proceeded to Aga Bukker's residence, ascended through his windows by a ladder, and obtained quick entrance into his sleeping room, where they immediately phoned, gagged, and maltreated him in a unmerciful manner that he was obliged to jump out of the window to save his life, and giving up the keys of his treasure chests. They also seized his son, who however belied out most lustily for assistance, which however never came, the night hours forcing to quit their dingy domiciles before the presence of so large a number of dacoits. The 14, 15, 16 men were confined in the Lock-up house; the Dacuas, and sentinels placed over them. Meanwhile Aga Bukker's son lay on his back, and made all the haste he could to the military guard, but ere the alarm was sounded the dacoits had secured their booty consisting of all the valuables in the house, to the amount of about 12,000 Rs. in cash, gold and silver jewels, and piece goods, and covered their retreat by the river, by several volleys of musketry, wounding a man who had accompanied the Constable to the river side, who now lies in a very precarious state. The report of musketry in the military to fancy they were surprised by a Burmese army from Martaban, and the huge sound forth it call to arms. But the dacoits were frightened at the report of the huge sound, and made all haste away to their boats. Two companies of Sepoys walked quietly down the road, learnt the fact of the case, and marched back to their quarters, officers ready at the war cry came sauntering with gaping eyes, and had their curiosity gratified, and with that retired to their peaceful homes. But Aga Bukker lay in his bed, and, replying to the questions of a thousand people who stood in a tremor, refused to come out to his help, but now flunked in shoals, seeing that the danger was past. But the unfortunate man who was lingering in the agonies of death and lay weltering on the side of the road in his blood, scarce elicited the pity of the passers-by. The Police were now in numbers along the place, and like all others were passive spectators of the scene. Lieuts. Aradgh and Ryan were the spot from the first intimation, but to little avail for want of competent aid; but the Magistrate and the Gung were safe in their beds, and decency and murder were being committed in the town, while the Constable alone to array his piny pistol against theirs."

A meeting of the inhabitants was held on the next day, for the purpose of taking into consideration "the best means of securing the lives and property of the inhabitants from the attacks of dacoits similar to that committed on one of their fellow townsmen on Thursday morning." The resolutions are very lengthy, but may be thus condensed; that the recent robbery had frightened the whole town, and that prompt and energetic measures ought to be taken to detect and punish the robbers, and to deter others from making similar attempts in future; that the meeting had long lost all confidence in the river police, and that the troops in the cantonment had been found wanting as guardians of the settlement; that the Burmese Government of Martaban afforded shelter to the robbers; that the police force required a thorough reformation, and that the troops, instead of lying idle in barracks, should be required to furnish guards at the Ghats, and that persons found guilty of robbery should be transported beyond seas. These resolutions were presented to Major Bagle in due form, and we are informed that the Military authorities have, (at the requisition of the Commissioners, we believe) ordered nightly pickets since Sunday last consisting of 4 Native Officers, 5 Havildars, 5 Naigues, and 130 Privates.—A party of 1 Havildar, 1 Naigue, and 30 Sepoys under a Subadar or Jemadar is posted



every night at the Talain Barracks near the Commissioner's Court, and another party of the same strength is posted at Dine-won-quinn near Mr. John Boudvillo's Timber-yard; 20 men under an officer from the Main Picket are also posted every night at 8 o'clock at the Engine-room near the Town Court house, and patrols are sent out every second hour from the Pickets under the order of the officer on Picket. These vigorous precautionary measures on the part of the military authorities are truly laudable, and we doubt not, are duly appreciated by the inhabitants.

This open and daring robbery in the heart of the town, places the conduct of the police in the most unfavorable light. It appears to be utterly worthless, more especially the branch stationed on the river, every officer of which should be summarily dismissed. But the whole police force evidently requires a radical and organic information. Government does not appear to have been happy in its selection of Assistant to the Commissioner, and another officer like the present will unquestionably bring with it the necessity of a change of men. Major Bogie is a man of great energy of character and great official experience, but he is evidently ill-supported. A thoroughly good Magistrate is a desideratum at Moulineux; a man with weight as well as vigor of character, thoroughly acquainted with the natives and their habits, and who, by a judicious use of secret service money, shall make himself ubiquitous, and render such a robbery as that we now record, as impossible at Moulineux, as it is in Calcutta, under our present most admirable system. With two regiments and a war steamer, and a flotilla, and a river police, and a large constabulary force, it is passing strange that a town with so limited number of inhabitants cannot be protected from such violence.

**STATISTICS OF CEYLON.**—The *Ceylon Observer* of the 3d March, contains a long and carefully written article, purporting to be a Review of an Almanac, issued from the Government Press of that island. This article, amidst a variety of pleasant, gossiping information about people, places, and things in the island, contains a large quantity of exceedingly important statistics, and as the production itself is far too long for our limited space, and is in a great measure of exclusively local interest, we shall endeavour to condense the most valuable items of the information it conveys. The census of the population of Ceylon, which, like all Oriental statistics, had been for many years manifestly incorrect, was in 1849 estimated with considerable accuracy for the purposes of the Road Ordinances. According to that enumeration the island contained

	Whites.
Males, .....	5019
Females, .....	3170
Total, .....	8210
	Coloured Races.
Males, .....	770,813
Females, .....	720,860
Total, .....	1,500,673

Besides about 15,282 aliens and strangers; being a little more than half the population of the district of Hooghly. The employments pursued by this population are thus given:

Agriculture, .....	(f) 376,043
Manufactures, .....	46,005
Commerce, .....	49,307

The population appears from the register of births and deaths to be increasing at the rate

of about 8000 a year, or rather more than one-half per cent. per annum. With respect to the population of towns, the information given is anything but satisfactory, but the *Observer* believes that of Colombo to be about 50,000 souls, being calculated on an average of seven to a house. But on the Continent of India we find the calculation of five to a house nearer to the truth.

The value of the Ceylon trade is very considerable; the exports for 1849 having been £1,306,149, and the imports £1,317,540, but nearly one-fifth of this latter sum was imported in specie, for the pay of the coolies, who form the best class of labourers on the island. The statistics of these coolies are not a little remarkable. The number of arrivals and departures in the year 1850, stands as follows:

	Men.	Women.	Children.
Arrivals, .....	37,155	1,818	419
Departures, .....	20,758	549	303

Unaccounted for, 16,397 1,270 148

Some of these, of course, remain in the island, but a large proportion, we fear, die there. A census of these coolies would appear strange to those who know how rapidly they replace the lost, when detained more than two years in Bengal. The fearful disproportion of the sexes, which is observable among the emigrants to the Mauritius, is also apparent in Ceylon, and some means should be adopted to remedy the evil.

The amount of land under cultivation for coffee, is estimated at 39,036 acres for the Central Provinces, and about 10,000 acres in the rest of the island, besides 20,000 acres for native coffee exported, and consumed in the island. The extent of abandoned estates is only 1,238 acres, in the whole of the Central Provinces, a fact which militates strongly against the justice of the complaints so incessantly made by the Island planters. The total area of the island is 15,805,000 acres, of which about one-fiftieth is cultivated. The productions are thus divided:

	Acres.
Cocconut, .....	122,000
Coffee, .....	80,000
Sugar, .....	2,500
Palmerals, (at Jaffna), .....	35,000
Rice, .....	400,000
Fine Grain, .....	100,000
Tobacco, .....	10,000
Pepper, Ginger, &c., .....	10,000
Pasture, .....	400,000

Many of these estimates are only approximations, but they are not of great service. We have given, are well worthy of attention.

#### INDIAN COMMERCIAL TABLES.

We have received a prospectus of a work bearing the title, from Mr. J. Bridgell, containing almost every variety of tables, useful to the Indian community. The list of subjects comprises thirty-eight separate tables, each containing two or three separate systems of reckoning. All the intricacies of mounds, seers, and chittacks, which so greatly perplex Indian housewives, are here to be explained, and all the difficulties of Indian monies and exchange made plain. The book will, we doubt not, be of great use to all who are engaged in commercial affairs, but we would advise the compiler not to overload his tables, as the most common fault in these publications is that of excessive complication, until like Bradshaw's Railway Guide, they require a regular apprenticeship to understand them. We think too that Mr. Bridgell has fixed rather a high price on his work; people in these

days are rather chary of giving ten rupees for a volume of tables, some of which they never require, and many of which they can work for themselves.

#### WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27.

—The *Calcutta Morning Chronicle* believes, that the Governor-General intends to return to Calcutta, some time in the early spring. We very much doubt the truth of this report. His Lordship's health would not, we hear, long stand the climate of Bengal; and his Sargents might give him summary notice to quit the country.

—The *Englishman* notices, that Nanyun Singh and his Sikh comrades, who, as our readers may remember, broke from their confinement on board the *Katanga*, and murdered several of the Durbanites, were brought up for trial in the beginning of this month before the Judge of Patna. The Judge has declared them guilty of murder, and sentenced them to be hanged. The case has been referred to the Sudder Court.

—The *Ceylon Times* of the 7th March contains the narrative of an execution attended with the strangest circumstances we ever remember to have noticed. Five Cingalese were condemned to death for the murder of three women, and on the morning of execution, four of them were hanged by Hagan Cobbold, Esq., M. A. The fifth remained sitting on a bed, and was left in the hands of the British soldiers, who immediately after swallowed some brandy. The British priest who baptized the men of course believed that he was performing an indispensable duty for their salvation, but it appears to us that something very like culpable must have been employed, and if so, the Government of the island ought at once to put a stop to a ceremony, which they cannot but regard as a crime, and which is calculated to bring discredit upon religion itself.

—We notice a case brought up before the Chief Magistrate of Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 26th instant, which, though of frequent occurrence, is hardly of remark, from the unusual severity of the sentence. A Mussulman was accused of having carried about for sale twenty-two seeds of "Churam" or "Churam" seeds, which are prohibited by a fine of Rs. 500, or six months imprisonment.

—We have extracted from the *Enquire Chronicle*, some correspondence about the proposed nomination of a new Magistrate, which it appears is not likely ever to come. Either the real of the subalterns has cooled down, or the subalterns were originally too low, for the amount required for the nomination of a new Magistrate is not likely to be met, and the Government will have to content themselves with a fine of Rs. 500, or six months imprisonment.

—The *India Gazette* gives the following as the definite arrangements with respect to divisional commands in the Punjab:—"Colonel Markham is to command the Brigade at Lahore; Brigadier Sir C. Campbell, K. C. B., will command at Lahore, and Umballa will fall to Major-General Battine, C. B., Colonel Brooker, who lately passed through Delhi to India, will command H. M. 2nd foot."

—We regret to perceive an announcement in the *Englishman* of the death of Capt. Grantham of H. M. 98th Foot, the Officer who was attacked by the Affghans. His death took place on the 15th inst. near the Peshawar. We perceive that the order to the Custom House to stop the export of Opium to the Affghans has already been taken advantage of by the Affghans.

—The *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* records the history of the first Medical diploma which has been issued from the Grant Medical College, an institution corresponding with the Calcutta Medical College. The young men, namely Farooze and Hindoo, who have received these diplomas, will be the first regularly instructed Native Surgeons, who have ever practised on the British soil. We are said to have passed more creditable examinations.

—We perceive in the advertising columns of the *Bombay Times*, an advertisement published by the "India and London Life Insurance Company," in which the advantages of that institution are set forth. We are sure any native's life from 20 to 25, and upwards. We should like much to know whether any native has taken advantage of this offer, and if so, what degree of advantage he has realized by the Association from such insurance. We have always regarded native life insurance as an impossibility, not only from the manifest difficulty, if not impossibility, of identifying the policy holder, but from the total absence of trustworthy data, upon which to form an estimate of the duration of native life. Our own observation leads us to believe that the average duration of native life in Bengal is extremely less than that of Englishmen, and the great majority of deaths occurring between the ages of Forty and Fifty—and if this supposition be correct, the India and London office must either be charging exceedingly high rates, or must lose money by the speculation.





[illegible]

### CONSTITUTION OF HINDU SOCIETY

The constitution of Hindu Society is a subject which is not generally well understood among Europeans, and yet to enable them to avoid the blunders, (some of them most ridiculous, but others of a more serious nature) in which many of them are continually falling, some are led to the conclusion that as a general necessity, would least be objected to. That some of the most devoted worshippers of the gods, and some adherents to the tenets of the *Upanishads*,







## ADVERTISEMENT.

## TO THE LOVERS OF LITERATURE

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## PORTER AND CO. &amp; CO.!!!

## "Old October—Old October!"

Let the drink be stout and good,  
Stout as lively, bright and good,  
And a twelve month in the wood;  
Malt from Ayr and Pilsener Valley,  
Hops given by the men of Kent,  
These, compounded, form a nectar,  
Fitting that the sturdy mount  
Old October—Old October!

Bearing, ruffling, and the wind;  
Strung as bravely, bright as amber,  
And a twelve month in the wood!  
Old October—Old October!

Ripe and mellow, stout and good,  
With a friend to toast in merriment;  
That they may be understood;  
Chateau Margot—Bordeaux—Gallies,  
Henceforth your choice potatoes fall;  
Drink for Christians—Jews and Latins,  
If you Old October Ale!

Old October—Old October!  
Creaming, mellowing, stout and good,  
Strong as iron, bright as amber,  
And a twelve month in the wood!

Messrs. W. L. ARNOLD & CO. have much pleasure

in announcing the arrival of five pipes of the best

of last harvest, from the *Chateau de Margot*, in

France, for the purpose of *Chateau de Margot*, in

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## THE FINEST TEAS IN INDIA.

ARE NOW BEING VENDED AT THE CHINA TEA

## WAREHOUSE.

8 and 9, Old Court House Street, Calcutta.

FRESH TEAS OF THE SEASONS, 1860-61.

By P. W. BROWN & CO. respectfully notify to their

Friends and the Public that they have landed from the

ships "Hesperus," "Hesperus," and "Hesperus," of the

finest Teas that ever were imported into this country,

and selected especially for them by their Agents in China,

for the purpose of being sold at the following—

CHINA TEA WAREHOUSE.

P. W. B. & Co. have the honor to state that the quality of

these Teas is unrivalled in this country, and that they

are of the finest quality, and of the best flavor.

And P. W. B. & Co. now beg to call attention to the

following—

BLACK TEAS.

Fine Congou, rich and rough-dressed. This will

be found a most economical Tea for dealers and large com-

merce.

The very best Black Tea, comprising all the excellencies

of the richest and most Tea-oriental.

The finest Orange Pekoe, delicately scented. The finest

Flowery Pekoe. Hyson Pekoe. Souchong. Red Pekoe, &c.

GREEN TEAS.

Flowery Hyson. Hyson. Hyson. Hyson. Hyson. Hyson.

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## MESSRS. D. WILSON AND CO.

RESPECTFULLY invite the attention of Messrs of the

following assortment of Wines, which they have

these Wines have been put up expressly for us, they are

of the finest quality, and of the best flavor.

100 cases of 3 Acres, Tidd's

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# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

No. 849. Vol. XVII.]

SERAMPORE: THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1851.

{ Price 2 Cts. Per. monthly or 20  
ls. yearly if paid in advance.

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
THE Government of Bombay have appointed the 1st of the ensuing Month of May for the departure of the next Steamers therefrom, with a Mail for Bombay, and the latest date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by this opportunity, will be Wednesday, the 25th inst. and that the first of the Overland Packets will be despatched from this Office, on Monday the 2nd inst.

**NOTICE** is hereby given for general information, that Mails for England via Southampton for Buss and for the Atlantic Ports, Madras, Ceylon, and Aden, intended for transmission by the P. and O. Co's Steam Vessel *Freemantle*, will be closed at this office on Saturday, the 13th inst.

The Public are particularly requested to observe, that no letters will be despatched by this opportunity; unless specially superintended "to be sent by the *Freemantle* Steam Vessel."

J. R. BENTLEY BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General for Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, 4th April, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donations:

For Mrs. J. J. Jones.  
Collected by the Editor of the *Friend of India*.  
E. C. Hamilton, Esq., Tunbridge, through Mrs. Dr. Lamb, ... .. 16 0  
E. G. Debar, Esq., through ditto, ... .. 10 0

## OVERLAND SUMMARY.—The Mail of the 24th

February arrived in Calcutta on Thursday, the 1st instant, after a passage of Thirty-eight days. The intelligence conveyed by it is of an unusually varied and interesting nature, and although rather late in the field, we proceed to give our usual summary. On the 7th February, Lord John Russell brought forward his measure of resistance to the papal aggression, which proved to be of the same character which had been anticipated. He proposed to pass an Act declaring the assumption of any ecclesiastical title, derived from any territory, town, or place within the United Kingdom illegal, and to place null and void. On reading the epitome of our Summary, we imagined the Act was valueless from the absence of a suitable penalty, but a glance at the original Bill showed us, that it provides a penalty of one hundred pounds "for every repetition of the offence." Should any of the Romanist Bishops, therefore, prove contumacious, and attempt to retain their titles, they will be liable to this fine for every separate Act of jurisdiction, and for every document signed with their usurped title, a penalty which would subvert the most resolute heart among them, in a week or two. There are a sufficient number of earnest Protestants in England to prevent the Act becoming a dead letter. Moreover, all legacies made to those who assume such titles, pass immediately to the crown, and every person, i. e. every ecclesiastical dignitary, who may be, sued for the offence, is to be examined and compelled to answer upon oath to the charge against him. The proposal was received with a storm of objurgation, from all sides of the House, one party declaring it to be weak and imbecile, and another asserting it to be an invasion of the great principles of religious freedom. The result of a division, however, was a complete triumph for the ministerial measure. Leave to bring in the Bill was granted by a majority of Three hundred and thirty-two, or more than a clear half of the entire House.

From the interest of the "papal question," however, soon gave way before the ministerial crisis which it was apparent was at hand. On

the 17th, Sir Charles Wood, Chancellor of the Exchequer, brought forward his Budget, and stated that he had a surplus to dispose of amounting to 1,800,000. Before proceeding to detail his plan for the employment of this surplus, he gave a rapid sketch of the proportionate weight of the taxes at present paid by the people of England. As this statement may be interesting to many of our readers, we extract it:—

On articles of food and personal consumption, ... ..	£.
21st, hops, and British spirits, ... ..	50,253,400
Manufactures; silk, soap, paper, &c., ... ..	10,927,200
Timber, tallow, agricultural seeds, ... ..	2,652,000
Duties on professions, and professions, ... ..	704,000
Income tax, ... ..	4,684,000
Coch and Railway traffic, ... ..	648,000
Newspapers, ... ..	517,000
Assessed taxes, ... ..	1,901,000
Barthens on property, as deeds, fire insurance, income tax from landed property, land tax, &c., ... ..	12,451,000
Local taxes, ... ..	15,000,000
Total, ... ..	67,091,700

With the amount in hand, Sir Charles Wood wished to remove the window tax, to abolish the duty on agricultural seeds, to equalize the duty on foreign and colonial coffee, and reduce both to three pence per pound, and to transfer the cost of maintaining lunatic paupers to the Consolidated Fund. The income derived from the window tax was not, however, to be entirely lost, as he proposed the substitution of a house tax based on the old tax, but independent of the number of windows. By this expedient, he would still retain a million sterling, which he devoted to the payment of the National Debt. This Budget, as might have been expected, was received with expressions of disgust from every corner of the House, and every "interest" in England. It was declared, and with justice, that the modification of the window tax in the manner proposed was not a remission of a tax, but a sanitary measure, accomplished by the pettifog of subterfuges, that the duty on agricultural seeds was not of any pressing importance, that coffee was a luxury enjoyed or cared for only by a class who could afford to pay for it, and that the alteration in the arrangements for Lunatic paupers, was a question of mere local interest. Lastly, with respect to the extra million, it was argued, that it was intended seriously to reduce the National Debt, there ought to be a definite, permanent plan introduced for that purpose, and it was absurd to keep "niggling" at the debt with casual surpluses. It was evident, that the Ministry could not carry this budget through the house. Soon after, Mr. D'Israeli brought forward a motion which was intended as the first step towards the revival of Protection. It was rejected in a full house consisting of 657 members by a majority of only 14. On the 20th of February, the Ministry experienced a complete defeat on the motion of Mr. Locke King which increased their difficulties. That gentleman brought forward, in a thin house, his annual motion for an extension of the franchise, pushed it to a division, and triumphed by a majority of one hundred to fifty-two. He also succeeded in extorting from Lord John Russell a promise to bring forward the subject of the Franchise next session. On the 21st, Lord John Russell adjourned the further consideration of the budget to Monday.

Lord John Russell felt that the unpopularity of his Cabinet was greatly increased by the unfortunate budget; that the Protectionists, defeated once by their desertion, he might be defeated again by the same manoeuvre. In these circumstances he considered it undesirable to bring forward any financial statement for the year, and he called his colleagues together and proposed to resign office. This appears to have been agreed to in a conference of less than an hour. It is said, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, one of the English Greys, refused either to modify his budget or to go out; but the truth of this assertion remains to be proved. Lord John Russell, therefore, tendered his own resignation, and proceeded to lay it before the Queen. By his advice, Lord Stanley as representing the strongest section in the House, was sent for, but after sounding the heads of his party, he declined the task of constructing a Protectionist Cabinet, with the present House, and the Queen refused her sanction to a new election in the present agitated state of the public mind. Lord John Russell, Sir James Graham, and Lord Aberdeen were therefore sent for, with the view of forming a Ministry out of a portion of the present Cabinet, and the remnant of Sir Robert Peel's party. The *Englishman* has the latest information on the subject. His correspondent was in the House on Monday, the 21st February, at 5½, just before the Mail left. Lord John Russell detailed these circumstances to the House, and stated that he had been required to reconstruct the Cabinet with the aid of Sir Robert Peel's adherents; he therefore moved an adjournment to Friday the 28th February, when he would announce either the success or the failure of the attempt. It is currently reported, that Lord John Russell's object is to weed the Cabinet of its most unpopular and impracticable members, the English Greys, and to strengthen the Government by the admission of Sir James Graham, the Duke of Newcastle, (late Lord Lincoln.) Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Sidney Herbert, and Mr. Gladstone.

The rest of the home intelligence is not of much interest. The Crystal Palace is not opened on the 8th May, and the prices of admission after the first three days, will vary from eight shillings to one shilling. The strength of the building has been most satisfactorily tested, and it is filling rapidly. The most interesting portion of the Mail to Indian readers is that which announces the determination of the Whigs to have no parliamentary enquiry into the affairs of India, and the removal of Sir John Hobhouse from the Board of Control—a most suspicious riddance. He has been pitchforked into the upper House by the style and title of Baron Broughton de Gyfford, of the county of Wiltshire between the President and the Assembly still continues. The dotation bill was thrown out of the Assembly by an immense majority, and a subscription was proposed to supply its place. The President, however, has refused to countenance such a project, and has adopted the more dignified alternative of reducing his expenditure. The people are evidently becoming, day by day, more alienated from the Assembly, and are obviously

disinclined to allow the first Magistrate of the State to live in the quiet obscurity of a private gentleman. A recent misunderstanding with Austria will tend to increase the popularity of Louis Napoleon, as he has assumed a decidedly warlike tone, in opposition to the pacific views of the Assembly. Austria has brought forward a proposition for allowing the whole of her non-German provinces to vote in the General Diet, and the proposition is supported by Prussia. The effect of this measure would be not only to give those two powers a complete preponderance in the Diet, for, practically, they have a majority already, but to cement to an extraordinary degree the conflicting interests of the various races of which the Austrian empire is composed, and to impress on all a thoroughly German stamp. Such a result, besides indefinitely increasing the power of Austria at home, would destroy the influence of France in the Italian peninsula, and the French Cabinet has protested against it in the most decisive language. Even England has declared her opposition to the scheme, but the result remains to be seen. A difference has occurred between the Pasha of Egypt and the Sultan. The latter has demanded that Abbas Pasha should diminish his military forces and give up his Navy. The Pasha has replied by doubling his forces of both descriptions, and appears resolved to maintain the rights of the Hereditary Pashalik. The matter will, probably, be settled by the mediation of the great powers. The only intelligence from America of any importance refers to the census of the United States, which is officially estimated at nineteen millions of whites, three millions and a quarter of slaves, and half a million of free blacks. The white population has increased forty per cent. in the last ten years.

The only private intelligence of interest is that which speaks of a race from Liverpool to India. Some American ship owners have challenged all England to race a ship from some English port to India, the winners to have the fastest ship. The challenge has, it is said, been accepted by a Liverpool firm.

**THE FIVE PER CENT. LOAN** was closed on Monday last, the 7th instant. We stated in our last article on the subject, that the secret had not oozed out in this country from any of the members of Government, but that it was reported to have been transmitted from Leadenhall Street to certain parties in Calcutta; and this assertion is fully corroborated by what has now transpired. It may be within the recollection of our readers, that on the closing of the previous loan, a gentleman well known in Calcutta, who had received early intimation of the approaching event, immediately made very large purchases of paper, and realized a very large sum by his speculation. It was subsequently discovered that the measure which had been determined on in Council, had been inadvertently mentioned by one of its members to the party, who thus obtained an advantage over those who were not in the secret. This communication of intelligence was at the time considered a very reprehensible proceeding, by the other members of Council, and also by the leading members of Government. On the present occasion, the information appears to have been communicated by the Directors themselves to their friends in India, and we are thereby emphatically taught by the highest Indian authority, that any officer who may have been entrusted with the secret, in connection with his official position, is at full liberty to communicate it to any friend whom he may be desirous

The close of the Loan will gradually give a high premium to Five Per Cent. paper, and rescue those "martyred saints" the four per cents. from the grave of despair in which they have been so long entombed. The holders of the Four must be in a state of the highest exultation. Before the present loan was opened, their paper was at a discount of only seven per cent. It was at seventeen, on the close of the Loan, and the last report of the Stock published in this paper, tells us that the discount has been already reduced to 10 per cent.; it is still falling. That brief *Calcutta Gazette* Extra of twelve lines puts a sum of no less than one hundred and fifty lakhs into the pockets of the holders. But the value of all stock will rise with the tide, except that of the Companies which are hopelessly aground on the shoals of insolvency.

The close of the Loan affords the strongest evidence of the fact that the Government of India has been relieved from its financial embarrassments, and that the expenditure and the income is now equalized. It affords a distinct confirmation of the view which we have taken of the state and prospects of our Indian finances, and supplies the most satisfactory reply to all the gloomy forebodings of the London Press. The *Bombay Times* also informs us, in the last issue which has reached us, that "more favourable accounts have been received of the state of the Indian balance sheet than the Editor was prepared for." "This year," says he, "the Punjab alone yields a net surplus of Ninety-nine lakhs of Rupees, and upon the whole balance of receipts and disbursements for the Indian and home treasuries, there will be a net balance of Twenty lakhs in favour of Government." The same favorable statement regarding the general state of the finances is also published in some of the papers received by the last mail, and we are happy to find our anticipations so completely verified, that in the first year of peace, the balance would be on the right side of the books. The remark which the *Bombay Times* gives regarding the Punjab revenues requires some modification. The "net surplus," is simply the sum which is available after the civil expenditure has been provided for. The actual balance, after all the Military accounts have been entered, will be found not to exceed Fifty lakhs, as a writer in the last number of the *Calcutta Review*, who has apparently access to the best sources of information, informs us.

**JUSTICE TO THE MEDICAL AND INTELLIGENCE TO THE MILITARY OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT.**—We believe it is universally acknowledged that the Medical Service at this Presidency is the most hardly used branch of the service, and we are rejoiced to find that Lord Dalhousie has by a recent order endeavored to redress one of the grievances to which it was subject. Under former arrangements, an Assistant Surgeon doing duty with a detachment, whatever its strength, was entitled only to a small allowance, contemptible in amount. The Governor General has now ordered, that whenever he is doing duty with a body of men equal in number to a single Company, he shall draw the same allowance as if he were entrusted with the responsibility of an entire battalion. No habitual has been the neglect of the claims of the Surgeons, that even this simple act of justice will be considered in the light of a boon and a grace.

There is, however, another act of injustice which was inflicted in a moment of irritation on the Civil Surgeons by Lord Ellenborough,

which we hope Lord Dalhousie will not quit the country without redressing. He directed that whenever a Surgeon attached to a Civil establishment was absent for more than six months from his post, he should forfeit his appointment, and be remanded to a regiment. If the rule was made general, and applied to all other branches of the coronated service, there would be nothing to say on the subject; but the Civilian is allowed, in case of ill health, his eighteen months and two years to the Cape; the Military staff of India has the same indulgence, and both without a forfeiture of office. Why then should there be so inequitable a distinction made in the case of the medical officers? This unjust rule ought to be forthwith abolished, and all the coronated servants of Government placed upon a footing of equality.

The Governor General has also been pleased to grant to all Staff officers, generally, at the three Presidencies, one month's leave of absence, irrespective of masters, once in every six months, without their suffering any pecuniary loss, provided that when applying for leave of absence they make approved arrangements for the performance of their duty, and no extra expense or inconvenience is occasioned to the state by the grant of this leave. This gives Military officers a higher indulgence than is granted to the Civil Service, the members of which are allowed a holiday of only one month in twelve. The Governor General has also ordered that all regimental and other officers who are permitted by existing regulations to be temporarily absent from their corps between masters, are in future to be allowed thirty days' leave, irrespective of masters. The indulgence will be highly appreciated by the officers of the army. But it is not strange that while the civil and military officers are thus allowed the indulgence of leave of absence without any forfeiture of pay, a Civil Surgeon cannot quit his station, even for three days in the year, upon leave of absence, without being mulcted the whole amount of his civil allowances. During this brief absence he is reduced to his military pay of an Assistant Surgeon, and if we are not mistaken, the anomaly is carried to so ridiculous an extent, that his pay for the three days of absence, is to be set off to the Military Auditor General's office, and the bill for the remaining twenty-seven, to the Civil Auditor!

**EAST INDIA RAILWAY COMPANY, AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS.**—The last mail has brought us a brief report of the annual meeting of the East India Railway Company, held on the 17th of February at the office, Old Broad Street. It was stated at this meeting, that the sum already paid up by the shareholders and now held by the Court of Directors, amounted to about half a million sterling. Of this sum, about Twenty lakhs of Rupees, we believe, will be required for the contracts which have been made for the completion of the works to Pandoo. An extension of the Rail from that point to the Collieries, has been already sanctioned by the Government of India, and we believe, that the greater portion, if not the whole, of this line has been surveyed, and it is, therefore, highly desirable that arrangements should be made during the next seven months for the transfer of the land, and the completion of contracts, so as, if possible, to commence the work of embankment immediately after the rains by the 1st of November next. The difficulties inseparable from a novel undertaking have led to disappointments in the present season, and the actual progress made, before the ensuing rains puts a stop to all field operations, will be found not to be

over the augmen-  
ment at the out-  
perances should  
expedite the oper-  
ation of the section  
to the junction of  
the Bank and the Damo-  
dah. The Government will be without excuse  
if the same delays and disappointments are al-  
lowed to occur again in November next. Mean-  
while, the Act for "giving additional facilities  
for public works in Bengal," will require to be  
carefully revised and amended, to meet the  
exigencies of the case. It is a crude, undigested,  
and inefficient enactment, and wants the  
benefit of the experience which has been gained  
during the last six months. Major Kennedy  
argued its being remodelled before he left the  
country. We shall have occasion again to al-  
lude to this branch of the subject, and would at  
present confine ourselves to one remark. The  
limitation of the extent of land which may be  
taken for temporary purposes, to One hundred  
yards from the centre line of the road, has a  
very injurious tendency, and should be at once  
repealed, and the quantity of land thus as-  
signed should be left to be regulated by the Rail-  
way Engineer and the Consulting Engineer of  
Government. It is most desirable that the con-  
tractors should be enabled to make and to burn  
their own bricks in the immediate vicinity of  
the line, which, however, is impossible under  
the present Act. There is now ample time for  
improving the Act, before the commencement  
of the next season of operations, and it will  
reflect discredit on the Legislative Council, who  
are in the enjoyment of the most ample leisure,  
if the same amount of time should be lost in the  
amendment of the Act, as was so unnecessarily  
consumed in passing it. So much for the  
first section of the Bill. We shall hereafter treat  
of the Second Section, from the regula-  
tion of Bardwan to the Seque, and the measures  
which are necessary for its rapid com-  
mencement.

At the meeting of the 17th of February in  
London, Mr. Adams is reported to have stated,  
that many of the shares which it was proposed to  
confiscate for non-payment of arrears belonged  
to persons who had died in India, and "in con-  
sequence of the necessity and difficulty of ob-  
taining probates in England, the public in India  
were very much dissatisfied, and until that  
feeling subsided, it was not likely that persons  
in India would hold shares in the Company."  
To this the Chairman replied, that "so far as  
to leave the Directors would be most anxious to  
meet the question in a proper manner, and to  
deal with every case according to its merits."  
The proper mode of meeting the question, is  
to abandon the rule which the Directors have so  
absurdly established, that the estates of share-  
holders in India, after having been burdened  
with the expense of administration in this coun-  
try, should be subject to all the difficulties and  
the costs of taking out a second probate in  
England. The Directors may rest assured  
that till this rule is abandoned, and the Pro-  
bate granted by the Supreme Courts in India,  
is deemed sufficient for the transfer of the  
shares, there will always be an objection to the  
investment of capital in the Company in India.  
The establishment of such a rule was an act of  
injustice to Indian capitalists. The question is  
one which ought to engage the immediate and  
earnest attention of the Railway Directors at  
home. The Five per cent. loan has closed, and  
its Promissory Notes will perhaps bear a pre-  
mium of four, five, or six, per cent. beyond par  
value, and there will therefore be the strongest  
tendency to the investment of Capital in Rail-

way shares, because they bear the same interest,  
and are paid from the same Treasury as Gov-  
ernment paper. Is it wise, or judicious for  
the Directors to check the influx of our local  
capital to our own Rail, by fettering the sale  
or transfer of shares with useless and discour-  
aging conditions?

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AFTER THE  
EXPIRATION OF THE ACT COMMONLY CALLED  
THE CHARTER ACT.—It is impossible to attach  
too much importance to the reply, which the  
President of the Board of Control gave to Lord  
Jocelyn in the House of Commons on the 10th  
of February last. Lord Jocelyn stated that  
previously to the termination of the Charters in  
1813 and 1833, Select Committees had been ap-  
pointed to collect evidence relative to the com-  
merce and Government of India, and he was  
desirous of ascertaining the intentions of the  
Ministry regarding the appointment of a similar  
Committee on the renewal of the Charter in  
1853. Lord Jocelyn fell into the error under  
which so many others labor, of supposing that  
the Act of 1833 extended the Charter of the East  
India Company for twenty years, and that it  
would be necessary now to renew it. Sir John  
Hobhouse, now Lord Brougham, de Gifford, in  
allusion to this inaccuracy, stated that there  
might be a Charter called the East India Com-  
pany's Charter, but the fact was that all the pri-  
vileges of that Charter were done away with by  
the Act of 1833, and the Government of India  
was now managed under the clauses of that Act  
of Parliament. That the corporation of the East  
India Company exists upon the strength of a  
Charter, and that its internal organization is re-  
gulated by the provisions of such a deed, there  
can, of course, be no doubt, though we are un-  
able to give the date or the conditions of it. The  
Act of 1833 does not create the Charter, but  
revokes its rights, and leaves over the ad-  
ministration of this country, to the Charter'd  
Corporation, *in trust for the Crown*, for the pe-  
riod of twenty years. If the trust should not  
be renewed, and the Government of India should  
be confided to other agency, the East India  
Company will still continue to exist: a char-  
tered body, and may demand payment of their  
capital stock from Government, and, being thus  
liberated from the executive administration of  
this country, will be at liberty again to embark  
their funds in commerce.

But this error in the phraseology of Lord  
Jocelyn's enquiry is a matter of no consequence  
whatever. In the year 1833, the Select Com-  
mittee of the House of Commons considered it  
necessary to receive evidence, not only in re-  
ference to the Company's trade, but also re-  
garding the nature, the working and the re-  
sults of the Government of India, under the ad-  
ministration of the East India Company. The  
report which was drawn up on the subject was  
presented to the House of Commons, and be-  
came the basis of that form of Government  
which was established in 1834. The question  
of paramount interest, therefore, is, whether it  
be the intention of Her Majesty's Ministers  
to appoint a similar Committee on the expira-  
tion of the present term of twenty years, and  
to afford an opportunity of ascertaining by im-  
partial investigation, the character and the  
effects of the Government thus established over  
the vast provinces of India. The President of  
the Board of Control, distinctly stated in the  
House, that it was not the intention of Her  
Majesty's Ministers to appoint a select Committee  
on the affairs of India; but "that if any material  
changes were proposed to be made in the Act  
under which India was governed, her Majesty's

Ministers would give due notice of them, so as  
to afford ample time for having them discussed  
in the House of Commons." This was tantamount  
to a direct refusal of all enquiry, for the  
Ministers have only to consider the changes they  
propose to make in the Act, immaterial, and they  
may then refuse all enquiry, and the Act would  
be hurried through the House, with the  
express design of preventing any investigation.

We need not say how deep a feeling of disgust  
and disappointment this announcement will  
create among all classes of society in India. The  
natives of the country, as well as the European  
community, and we may add also, the official  
servants of Government who take any interest  
in the improvement of India, have been looking  
forward with the deepest interest to the period,  
now approaching, when, according to establish-  
ed precedent, the investigation of Indian affairs  
would be entrusted to a mixed and impartial  
Committee of the House of Commons. India,  
though the largest and most important depen-  
dency of the Crown, with a revenue fully  
equal to one-half the revenues of England, and a  
population of treble its number, is not under  
the control, or cognizance of Parliament, like all  
the other national colonies and dependencies.  
The Government is completely irresponsible  
of any authority or control whatever, and the only  
check on mismanagement, is that which arises  
out of the periodical revision of its adminis-  
tration once in twenty years, by a Select Com-  
mittee. The refusal of Her Majesty's Minis-  
ters to appoint any such Committee to receive  
evidence, places India in a worse position than  
any other portion of the British Empire. At  
the same time, it affords the strongest acknow-  
ledgment which could have been desired, of the  
necessity of such an investigation.

If there was any period in the history of the  
British empire in India, at which such an in-  
quiry, was necessary to enable England to dis-  
cover its policy to this country, it was at the ter-  
mination of the present Twenty years' trust. It is  
during this period that the machinery which  
had been constructed for the management of a  
large commercial establishment, has been for  
the first time employed exclusively for the po-  
litical Government of a great empire. It is a  
fit subject of enquiry, how this novel contri-  
vance has answered its purpose, what benefit  
India has derived from the political and ad-  
ministrative amenability of the Court of Direc-  
tors to the Proprietors of East India Stock. If  
it be found that the apparent subordination of  
the one body to the other is a mere affectation,  
and that the responsibility is merely nominal, then  
it becomes a legitimate question, why the Pro-  
prietors of East India Stock should be permitted  
to exercise the power of choosing the Governors  
of India. The constitution of the Court of Di-  
rectors, is also a matter of deep interest. How  
far has it been found useful to India that half  
the Directors should consist of men utterly  
ignorant of India, or its people, and bound  
to it by no other ties than a participation of  
its patronage? Is it necessary to have so large  
a number as twenty-four Directors, when all  
the work is done by half the number? Is it  
necessary that the rulers of India should be-  
come humble supplicants for their places to  
eighteen hundred holders of stock, many of  
whom are of the female sex, and by far the  
greater number of whom know no more of the  
state of India, than they do of the Chinese  
empire? Is it necessary for the good of India  
that every Director should be indefinitely fet-  
tered by the promises which have been extor-  
ted from him to share his patronage among  
those who elected him?

from the Court of Directors and the Board of Control, ought also to be the subject of investigation; and the necessity of keeping up the anomaly and the expense of two separate bodies, when the one cannot move a finger without the leave of the other, should be established by evidence. Then, again, the system of education now pursued at Haileybury, is the theme of universal censure. Is that condemnation just, or the reverse? If it be just, what is the best mode of reforming the system, and giving the Government of India the benefit of the best talent, which England can furnish, and for which India can make the fullest pecuniary compensation? Are the youths to be crammed with the rules of a dead language without any enquiry, for twenty years to come? Is there to be no improvement in the education of the men who govern Eighty millions of people, and receive a million and a half sterling a year for doing so?

The changes which have been in the administration of the Government in India itself, demand a close and impartial scrutiny, and to tell us that no enquiry shall be made, not even once in twenty years, into the good or evil results of these measures, is to change the despotism of the Government of India into an odious and intolerable tyranny. This Presidency was divided into two sections in 1838, and the Governor General was authorized to appoint any covenanted servant of ten years' standing, Lieut. Governor of the North West Provinces; and any member of Council, Deputy Governor of Bengal. From the almost permanent absence of the Governor General in the North West, the province of Bengal has generally been administered by a Deputy Governor, who is also obliged to preside in Council every week, and cannot therefore stir from Calcutta, and who is, moreover, constantly changed with every mutation in Council. From these causes, the administration of Bengal has been not so much stationary, as retrograde; and it has long ceased to enjoy the respect or even the confidence of the public. The administration of the North West Provinces, on the other hand, is the theme of universal praise. Is it not the business of Parliament at the end of twenty years to institute an enquiry into the results of the two great experiments which were authorized by it in 1838, and to give the rich provinces of Bengal ten millions of Revenue, the benefit of this comparison? The continued absence of every successive Governor General, from the seat of Government, ought also to become the subject of enquiry, with the view of remedying the subordinate Governments, as to adapt them to a state of things which must now be considered inevitable. Under the present system, the residence of the Head of the Government in the Hills is a source of delay, weakness and inconvenience, the extent of which it is difficult to estimate. It is impossible that there can be any vigor in the Government of Bengal, when no office above 1000 Rs. in value can be given away without a reference to Peshawar, or Kunawar. A Government thus fettered becomes internally weak, and externally contemptible. The residence of the Governor General at Simlah has now attained all the fixities of prescription, partly from considerations of health, and partly from the importance of our political relations on the North West frontier, and it becomes the duty of Parliament to ascertain through a Select Committee the means by which the subordinate Governments may be so strengthened as to obviate the inconvenience of this course. At present, none of the different Presidencies

have sufficient independent power of action to be able to render their administration a blessing to the country. They cannot so much as add a Rupee to the salary of any servant of Government in the remotest corner of India, without a reference to the Head of the Government. This state of things demands enquiry and reform. Then again; since the Act of 1833, the agency of Natives has been introduced into the administration of justice to such a degree as completely to change its internal structure, and its influence upon the education of the people. We require a complete investigation of the character and results of this great innovation. The administration of criminal and civil justice, in the hands of the Covenanted Servants of Government, has been the subject of constant remonstrance, and it is certainly susceptible of great improvement, and Parliament cannot be acquitted of a most culpable neglect of duty if it should refuse to allow the fullest enquiry into the system, and afford an opportunity for those who impugn it to bring forward their objections, and for those who are censured to give their explanations. We require a report also of the progress which has been made in national education; and of the extent to which our Seminaries and Colleges have been made the nurseries of the service. The state of internal communication throughout this vast empire; the attention which has been paid to the construction of roads, canals, and bridges; these and a hundred other subjects of the highest importance to the character of our Government, and the welfare of the people, demand a close and impartial investigation, and to refuse it, involves a most serious dereliction of duty. We trust, therefore, that the Press, both in this country and in England, will, for once, be unanimous in demanding the appointment of a Select Committee to take evidence on all these questions, and to present to Parliament, before any future arrangement is made, a full, comprehensive and impartial report of the effects of those measures which have been adopted since the Government of India was entrusted in 1838 to the E. India Company.

**STEAM COMMUNICATION BETWEEN EUROPE, ASIA AND AUSTRALIA.**—The community in India will be delighted to find that Lord Jocelyn, has prevailed on the House of Commons to appoint a Committee,

"To enquire into the question of the existing steam communication between England and India, and to report whether any improvements may be made in the conduct of those communications previous to the grant of a further subsidy to any Company proposing to carry on that line. Likewise, to consider the subject of steam communication, having for its objects a line or lines connecting with England, India, and Australia; and to report to the House, the most fitting mode in which such communications may be effected with due care to economy, and with advantage to the public interests."

This proceeding shows the great national advantage which it is in the power of a single member of the House of Commons to confer, and the very beneficial influence which may be exerted in the House, by any one who is determined to make his position subservient to public interests, rather than to party triumphs. From the aspect of circumstances, we were led to apprehend that the new contracts, two years hence, for the conveyance of the mails to and from India, and generally for steam communication between Europe and Asia, in which the best interests of the Eastern world are involved, would be concluded, without enquiry, by a quiet and unobserved engagement between the parties interested in retaining their greatest privileges, and the Ministry. This

project, if it ever was set  
be defeated by the press  
suffered now appointe  
pardonance between  
the Chancellor of the Exchequer  
James Hogg landed last year in the House of Commons, and the East India Company will have an opportunity of placing on record the reasons which led them to refuse their assent to the demands of Sir Charles Wood. There is nothing in England to be compared, for utility, with a clear, searching investigation of any question by a Committee of the House of Commons. It places conflicting opinions in mutual contrast, brings out every fact which can affect the merits of a question, and sheds such a flood of light upon its bearings as to render it transparent as truth. Our own steam arrangements, as well as those which are to connect the empire of China, and the young Saxon empires of Australia with the European community, will now have all the benefit of this root and branch enquiry. The representatives of the various steam navigation interests will be confronted before the Committee, and we shall have an impartial comparison of the speed, the fares, and the conveniences of the Steamers of the P. and O. Company, with those of other steam Associations. Sea Steam intercourse, may be said to be the growth of the last ten years; and we may now expect to obtain from the investigation and the report of the Committee, a full and comprehensive view of the progress which has been made by the various Companies who have embarked in it. The body of evidence thus brought together in the Blue Book, will be found to yield in interest to that of no other question of the day. It will demonstrate the extraordinary development of Anglo Saxon energy on both sides of the Atlantic, in this vast and new field of exertion; and it will also enable the Ministry to give to our steam communication the advantage of past progress and experience, and effectually prevent the premature and injudicious conclusion of new contracts. The same mail which brings us this intelligence, also informs us of the gratifying influence which the spirit of competition in the matter of Steam, and the spirit of enquiry in the House of Commons, have already produced on the old P. and O. Company. It has had a miraculous effect even on the boilers of the *Ripon*, which vessel has actually made the voyage from Alexandria to England in fourteen days. The Company have moreover promised new vessels which shall do the distance in eleven. "People ask," says the correspondent of the *Harker*, "why was not this done before?" For the simplest of all reasons. A monopoly, the best monopoly,—always goes to sleep, by the law of its nature, and continues in this state of drowsiness till it is awakened by the rude hand of competition. With the projected Rail from Alexandria to Suez, we may now look forward not only with hope, but with confidence, to the accomplishment of the voyage between Southampton and Calcutta in Thirty days. Nothing less ought to satisfy us. Yet who knows but that in the year 1860, some Calcutta journalist may smile at this limitation of our expectations, just as we smile at the offer made twenty-five years ago of a large premium for the first vessel which should accomplish the voyage between London and Calcutta in Seventy days!

**THE NATIVE PRESS.—THE SUMATRA DISPATCH.**—We have received from the proprietors of the *Soloja Pustaka*, a prospectus of a new journal which they intend to start

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spectors and  
For which the



on the 3rd of May next, in place of their present publication. The *Statesman*, during the single year of existence, has succeeded beyond the expectations of its projectors, in every respect but the financial one. The circulation, after the first month, rose to two hundred and thirty, independently of thirty copies taken for the vernacular schools; and the Editor has handed over to us some curious statistics of the component parts of this number, which we wish we had space to publish. We give one item, as it illustrates the disinclination which we have often remarked on the part of Mahomedans to read anything in Bengalee.

European subscribers, ...	48
Mahomedans, ...	4
Hindoo, ...	178
Native Christians, ...	2

We are informed also that out of Eight hundred letters received by the Editor in the course of the year, from native gentlemen, only six were unpaid, a fact which may serve to encourage the Post office Commissioners in their extension of the Post office privileges. The new journal is intended to be a revivification of the *Samachar Durpan*, which issued from this press for Twenty-three years, and was given up only because the weight of increasing occupations compelled us to relinquish its publication. According to the character, it will resemble its prototype in size, character, and price, and we ought to have in general a very decided dislike to polyglott newspapers, we know from experience how this particular form of them falls in with native wants and habits, and we wish it greater success than the paper of the same name attained.

A writer signing himself J. L. but whom we believe we may without delicacy name as the Rev. J. Long, has addressed the *Christian Intelligencer*, with a very valuable list of the Bengalee periodical publications at present in existence. We have placed the table, in extenso, among our selections, but we give the statistical details a more prominent place. Calcutta has two daily, two tri-weekly, three bi-weekly, two weekly, two bi-monthly, and three monthly vernacular journals. Besides these, there are three vernacular papers in Burdwan, one of which is a more Court Journal, and one in Bungepore, a weekly. The last paper is remarkable for the amount of news, properly so called, which the Editor contrives to collect, and for the calm healthy tone it maintains in the discussion of subjects interesting to the native Community. There are, we believe, one or two other journals published in districts but they have a limited circulation, and rarely find their way to Calcutta.

Of the Fourteen journals mentioned above, the best written are the *Bhaskar*, *Prabakar*, and *Purnoon-chandrodyo*, the largest circulation, we believe, enjoyed by the *Roseogor*, and the most profitable is probably the *Chandrika*. None of them, however, though their price is reduced to the lowest possible figure, enjoy an extended circulation in the Mofussil, and we believe, that the one hundred and fourteen copies of the *Statesman* despatched weekly through the post office, was nearly equal to the whole Mofussil circulation of all the Calcutta Vernacular journals put together. We doubt, also, whether more than four of these journals are sufficiently profitable to afford a maintenance to their proprietors; the rest are worked at as a very small profit, and many of them are made subsidiary to other views. One remarkable feature of the native press, in the Mofussil, and in one or two cases, the tone of the correspondence they observe.

the *Bhas* a tri-weekly paper, is generally filled by correspondence, almost invariably well written, and frequently containing sound information, though disfigured by the usual oriental exaggeration. There is, however, a great want of intelligence, the only thing coming under the designation of news, being ridiculously extravagant narratives of atrocities, an occasional account of a tiger hunt, and the usual gossip of Calcutta. Of late there has been a very great improvement in the tone of the majority of these papers; they are far less abusive, and more inclined to reason than to rave. It may be interesting to compare this statement with one drawn up eight years ago by a gentleman well acquainted with the Native Press, for the information of a friend. We give it entire, as it has never yet been printed.

**MEMORANDUM ON THE NATIVE PRESS.**—It is now twenty-five years since the first Native newspaper, the *Samachar Durpan*, was published at the Serampore Press, and it is therefore of some importance to notice the progress which journalism has made in the Native community, and the degree of distance which it occupies on public opinion. The first establishment of a Native paper was contemporary with the great movement in the cause of public instruction, which was made under Lord Hastings, and it was expected that in a community in which there were tens of thousands able to subscribe for a paper, what feeling the expense, newspapers would speedily obtain a very extensive circulation, and that it would increase with the progress of education. I regret to say that these anticipations have not been realized. Though the Native papers have been fixed at the very low price of a Rupee a month, and some of them even at a lower rate, yet, at no period during the last twenty years, have more than two thousand copies been sold within the last increase of circulation is scarcely perceptible. The apathy of the native character has not been broken up, scarcely disturbed, by the introduction of journals. A newspaper is not reckoned among the wants of the people. It is the first expense a Native looks off when embarrasments arrive. An attempt was made some time back to enforce annual payments in advance; but it failed, and the circulation of the journals which made the experiment suffered materially from it. All payments for the papers are made with great irregularity and greater reluctance. Of those who support a paper, one-fourth may always be considered as arrears, which it requires the most humiliating impudence to collect. It is much to be doubted, whether more than two of the papers afford a decent subsistence to the Editors, the *Durpan*, and the *Bhaskar* and *Roseogor*, the two latter papers being printed under the same editorial management.

With one exception, none of the papers have enabled the proprietors to obtain the convenience of an Iron printing Press, and more than half of the present number would probably become extinct, if the Office was not supported by the printing of books. There can scarcely be a more irksome, and less agreeable, so far as money is concerned, than that of a Native Editor; but it serves to give him a certain standing and influence in Society which compensates for every inconvenience. Since the establishment of native journals, more than thirty have disappeared from the stage. The number of Bengalee papers now published in Calcutta, is eight. It is difficult to ascertain their relative circulation, for any direct enquiry would be met by a very exaggerated report. But the following statement furnishes, I think, some approximation to the truth:—

The <i>Samachar Durpan</i> , ...	220
The <i>Ramraj</i> , ...	170
The <i>Bhaskar</i> , ...	170
The <i>Purnoon-chandrodyo</i> , ...	170
The <i>Spektor</i> , ...	120
The <i>Chandrika</i> , ...	120
The <i>Purnoon-chandrodyo</i> , ...	120
The <i>Seojun-ranjun</i> , ...	50

Making every allowance for deficiency of information, 1,800 copies may possibly be the extent of circulation enjoyed by the whole number. Of these, the *Durpan* and the *Spektor* are published in English and Bengalee. The *Spektor* is conducted by a small body of educated natives, belonging to the party which identified itself with Mr. George Thompson. Some of them are men of wealth, and profit is no object. The *Ramraj*, deals little in politics. Its character resembles that of the *Satirist* and the *Age*. The *Bhaskar* indulges much in political reflection, and comments with much freedom and no little ability on the public measures of Government.

Of these papers, the *Durpan* has a circulation of about 95, the *Purnoon-chandrodyo* of 27; and the *Chandrika* of 15 in the interior of the country. Perhaps, some of the other papers have also a limited circulation out of Calcutta, but it is so small that the covers are delivered at the ordinary tickets of the Post Office, and are not distinctly recorded. The Mofussil circulation of every Native journal does not exceed 200. Of the influence which these papers exercise on public opinion in Calcutta, it is difficult to speak with any degree of confidence. Eleven hundred newspapers are circulated among the reading classes of the metropolis, cannot fail to direct and control public sentiment to a certain extent; but in consequence of that feeling of listlessness which characterizes the natives, that control is much more feeble than a corresponding number of papers would exercise over a Euro community. The influence of the Native journal, generally, is not unfavorable to the Government of British India, though they may occasionally single out individuals for censure and ridicule. I do not think they have comparatively no influence in the country, as their extremely small circulation beyond the metropolis will sufficiently indicate. Calcutta is not to the Mofussil what Paris is to the rest of France. The chord which may be touched in the metropolis does not vibrate through the country. Even in the case of the abolition of *Suttes*, which touched to the quick the dearest religious prejudices of the people, it was found impossible to communicate to the country the impulse which had been given to the public mind in Calcutta.

There are at present four Persian papers published in Calcutta. I cannot speak with accuracy of their circulation, but I am perhaps a little beyond the truth in calculating it in the aggregate at 400, of which number 50 are sent by post into the interior. One of these had a very large circulation in 1858, when India was threatened with an invasion from Persia. It indulged in the most virulent and treasonable abuse of the British Government, and was generally understood to be supported by Persian gold. Of this, however, there is no direct proof. The triumphs of the British arms in Afghanistan, have served to lower its tone, to diminish its importance, and to reduce its circulation to such an extent that it is difficult to imagine how it can be kept afloat.

While it is apparent that the circulation of Bengalee papers has not kept pace with the progress of knowledge among the natives, it might be supposed that this had arisen from an increased circulation of English newspapers among the educated Natives. It will, therefore, appear surprising, and almost incredible, that while there are more than a thousand native gentlemen, fully capable of appreciating an English paper, all the journals at the Press have none, altogether, more than one hundred and twenty-five Native subscribers among them; as the following memorandum will show:—

Eastern Star, ...	11
Calcutta Star, ...	22
Englishtman, ...	25
Hurkar, ...	47
Friend of India, ...	20

These five papers have an aggregate circulation little short of 4000 copies; of which 3875 copies may be considered as taken by the European community, and only 125, or about 3 per cent., by the enlightened Natives in the twenty-fifth year of native improvement.

After this paper was written, I received further information regarding the dark circulation of the native papers, of which some are posted at the receipt.

























# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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[Price 3 Cts. Rs. monthly or 30 Rs. yearly if paid in advance.]

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.  
THE Government of Bombay having approved the 3d of the ensuing Month of May for the departure of the next Steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Soer-Nor, accordingly it is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be included for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Wednesday, the 2d instant, and that the first of the overland packets will be despatched, and despatched from this Office, on Monday the 3d inst.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDUSTAN," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.

NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Soer, and the intermediate Ports (Madras, Cochin, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hong-Kong) intended for transmission by the Steamer "Hindustan," will be closed at this Office, on Friday, the 2d inst. and that no other packets will be despatched leave on Saturday, the 3d inst., with the ordinary Mail, to come to arrival at Kedgees, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the "Hindustan" can be received after 5 P. M. of that date.

J. R. BRISTOL BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General & Charge,  
Genl. Post Office, 14th April, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editor of the Friend of India begs to acknowledge the following Donations:  
From a Christian, Mooltan, Ca. Rs. 20, to the Serampore Ladies' Benevolent Society.

For Mrs. Jackson,  
Collected by the Editor of the Friend of India.  
A Christian, Mooltan, ..... 80 0  
N. K. Rao, Sec. Madras, ..... 25 0  
Mess. G. C. Gullyer, Madras, ..... 25 0

## OVERLAND SUMMARY.—"As you were."

This Military order, issued by the first Military genius of the age, is the best summary which can be given of the intelligence brought by the mail of the 7th March. After Lord Stanley, Lord John Russell, and Sir James Graham had in vain attempted to form a Ministry, the Duke of Wellington was sent for by her Majesty, and his counsel sought. He advised that as it was found impossible to reconstruct parties, so as to enable any of the Parliamentary leaders to form a Government capable of carrying on the business of the country, the old Ministry should be reconstituted. The Queen followed, his advice, and Lord John Russell, both the Clans Grey, Sir Charles Wood, and even that inextinguishable, Lord Broughton, resumed their old places. They will probably, done on through the Session, getting through in the business of the nation as they best can, in the face of an indifferent, if not hostile House of Commons, until the closing of the Crystal Palace shall afford an opportunity for the dissolution of Parliament, and an appeal to the country.

We must, however, go a little more into detail to enable the reader to comprehend the causes which led to the failure of the projected ministries. After the resignation of Lord John Russell, the party who nominally defected him, viz. the Radicals, ought, according to precedent, to have succeeded to power, but as this was out of the question, Lord John Russell endeavored to form a new Ministry by the admission of Sir J. Graham, Lord Aberdeen, and some other members of the Peel Cabinet. He found, however, upon consulting them, that they were all so completely opposed to anything resembling party legislation against the Romanist Bishops, that it would be impossible for them to act with any Ministry which was pledged to such an

enactment. The task of forming a Ministry was then entrusted to the Earl of Aberdeen, but it was evident that an overwhelming majority of the House of Commons were determined to pass the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, if not a more severe measure, he declined the office. Lord Stanley was then sent for, and that nobleman spent three entire days in the endeavor to form a Ministry, but failed. The reasons of his failure according to his own account were, the numerical inferiority of his House of Commons, and men accustomed to official ranks. This compelled him in the most conservative section both Lord Aberdeen, and the friends to whom he chiefly look.

Lord Stanley, as he had declined his intention of making a demonstration against the Papal Aggression. After an interregnum of eleven days, during which the country appears to have taken but little interest in the proceedings, the advice of the Duke of Wellington was requested, and he recommended that the Whig Cabinet should be requested to "stand fast." The Russell Ministry is, therefore, once more in place, and it is understood that the premier has threatened to dissolve Parliament, if his own party should desert him again. The dread of a dissolution will calm down opposition. Lord John Russell's difficulties, however, are by no means at an end. The Irish members have formed themselves into an Irish Brigade, pledged to oppose any extension of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill to Ireland, and almost every new election seems to add an additional member to the Protectionist side of the House. The most important result of these various movements is the assurance they give us that the Protectionists, though numerically strong in Parliament, are totally unable to form a Ministry. Lord Stanley's financial plan embraces a 5s. duty on the importation of corn, to assist the revenue and the landlords, but it is clear to a demonstration that no Minister, however able, has any chance of ever being able to carry such a measure. He might as well think of restoring Old Sarum, or reviving the Heptarchy. It is not improbable that after the Roman Catholic Titles Bill has passed, and Cardinal Wiseman has been obliged to change his designation to Archbishop in Westminster, for Archbishop of Westminster,—which appears to be the dodge by which the Roman Catholics intend to evade the law,—Sir James Graham and the Peelites may form a junction with Lord John Russell and the best portion of his Cabinet, and John Bull must overcome his foolish prejudices against coalitions.

So entirely have all the usual topics of Home interest been absorbed in the Ministerial crisis, that scarcely any events of any kind are recorded, except a few criminal trials, and some facts relating to the progress of the Crystal Palace. The allotment of space is in course of rapid completion, and objects for exhibition are arriving from all quarters. The display of machinery will be magnificent, and the contributions from other countries are expected to be enormous. The rent both of houses and lodgings is rising, and the hotel and lodging house keepers expect to make fortunes. Mr. Thoby Prime, so well known in India, as the most ultra of

ultra Tories, who returned to England in 1843 expecting to find it as had left it in 1807, has at length, after several unsuccessful efforts, been returned for Harwich on Protectionist principles. He has attained the highest honour to which an old Indian can aspire, a quiet seat in Parliament, and a seat in the Direction at the India House, with a share of the Indian losses and fishes.

The only topic of interest in France during the fortnight, has been a proposition brought before the Assembly for the abrogation of the Assembly for the abrogation of the question, M. Dufresne expressed opinion that dynasties were judged by revolutions justified the death of Louis the

The scene which ensued was of the most notorious description, the members actually fighting pell mell around the Tribune, and it was only put an end to by a resolution to close the discussion. The subject has not been since revived, but it seems probable that the proposition will be removed before the next Presidential election. The third anniversary of the inauguration of the Republic was celebrated on the 24th February, but the day passed off without any political demonstration of importance. A credit of 3,218,000 francs has been voted by the assembly for the continuance of the French Army in Rome, and the real reason of the maintenance of that force in the Capital of Italy was explained by M. Passy. It is intended to counteract, at least in some degree, that preponderating influence of Austria in the Peninsula, which is likely to be increased by the new policy adopted by that power. Prince Schwartzstein, in answer to the remonstrances of the French Cabinet, against the plan of consolidating the whole of the Austrian states, by their admission to the German Diet, has expressed the determination of his Government to persevere in that design. He says, Austria must either become a single united power, or leave northern Germany to Prussia and the Red Republicans. Austria has issued an amnesty to all the Hungarian refugees in Turkey, with the exception of eight, who are specified by name, on condition that they do not again enter Hungary. The refugees have therefore left Constantinople for England, where a subscription will be raised to send them to America. Among the persons excepted from the amnesty are Kosuth and Count Bathany.

The only intelligence from the United States refers to California. That country is rather less than three years old, and already forty-seven steamers are threading its rivers, and Eleven larger vessels are employed between San Francisco and Panama. These latter, although the fare has been fixed at the enormous sum of 320 dollars, or 700 Rupees, are crowded in every trip, and their owners are amassing fortunes. In San Francisco there are Ten first class Hotels, and Eight express Companies, and one hundred and seven miles of streets have already been laid out. The Legislature of Arkansas has presented a petition to Congress, praying that steps may be taken for the immediate annexation of Cuba to the Union.

The population of New York is Five hundred and seventy thousand.

THE FIVE PER CENT. LOAN.—We quote a

short article from the *Harbinger*, relative to our observations on this Loan for the purpose of correcting a misapprehension under which our contemporary appears to labor. He seems to suppose that our reference to the communication of intelligence of the approaching close of this loan, was based on some notice received from official quarters. We request him at once to dismiss this idea from his mind. We have always considered it the imperative duty of all those who, from their position in the administration, were entrusted with the intentions of Government on such financial measures, to maintain the strictest and most conscientious silence regarding them. We consider it a high breach of official confidence for them to make any communication, direct or indirect, relative to the loan, to any individual whatever, except in the course of public duty. It is impossible, to say any such communications to have which we could have obtained any inference of an exclusive character. Our objection arose from intelligence gleaned in the intercourse of society. We were that the approaching close of the loan was a common topic of conversation. We felt certain that the secret had not been obtained from those who were entrusted with it, as members of Government. At the same time, we were distinctly assured that letters had been received by more parties than one in Calcutta, from Leadenhall Street, with information that the loan would very speedily be closed; and we drew the natural and inevitable inference that the reports in town were to be traced to these communications between the Directors and their friends.

**THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONER AND THE BOARD OF REVENUE.**—The *Calcutta Gazette* informs us that Mr. Lushington, the Railway Commissioner, has been appointed Secretary to the Board of Revenue. This will of course render it necessary for him to quit his present employ at a very early period, and the appointment of his successor becomes a matter of deep importance to the success of this great national enterprise. Of the forty miles of line from Howrah to Pandooah, for which contracts have been made, the ground along thirteen miles has been already transferred to the Railway officers; two-thirds of the land therefore, still remains to be made over. But not one of the trees which have been cut down, and not one of the houses which have been demolished, on the ground already placed in the hands of the contractors, as far as we have been able to learn, has been paid for as yet. All the claims to compensation for the land, likewise, remain to be settled. We are afraid to state the number of these claims, as popularly reported, lest we should be suspected of exaggeration; but as the whole line of forty miles for which contracts have been made, comprises nearly 9,000 begahs, if we allow three begahs for each holding, we shall have no fewer than 8,000 such claims. The longer they remain unadjusted, the more difficult will it be for the unfortunate ryots to obtain a just compensation for their lands. The more protracted the suit, the higher will be the charges attending it. However energetic may be the exertions of the Commissioner, and the Deputy Collectors under him, the investigation of conflicting claims will require much time and caution; and if the work is completed, and every house and tree, and inch of ground, is paid for by the 31st of December next, the work will have been executed with marvellous, almost miraculous, speed, and we shall have the noblest triumph

on record over the active and passive resistance of circumstances.

It is therefore with feelings of deep alarm that we hear it rumoured in certain quarters, that the appointment of a Railway Commissioner after the retirement of Mr. Lushington is considered in some measure, redundant, and it is supposed that the work may be safely left to the ordinary Revenue officers of Government. The report may be unfounded, but the mere chance of its proving true, seems to require the most strenuous endeavor to show that the appointment is indispensable to the rapid progression of the work on the one hand, and to the reputation of Government on the other. The duty of the Commissioner is two fold; it

is, and to the Ryots. As soon as one of the line have received the warrant, he is required to take up the possession of the land, for the operations of the Rail, certain the value of the houses, and, and make compensation for the owners. By a laudable stretch of edulity, we have assumed that the work on the first forty miles, now in hand, may be completed by the 1st of January next. Before it is finished, however, the Railway officers will be prepared to call upon Government for the next division of the line, consisting of Ninety miles. Now, as the same reasons for delay,—the novelty of the undertaking, and our ignorance of the mode in which difficulties are to be overcome,—which have furnished some palliation for past procrastination, cannot be supposed to exist after the experience of the first season, the most active exertions must necessarily be made to transfer the next portion of the ground. Even if the office of Commissioner were abolished, and his duties were added to those of the Collectorate, we believe that the ground would be transferred as fast as the contractors could occupy it. A second delay would inevitably bring the whole matter before Parliament, and that at the most awkward for the Court of Directors. We apprehend, therefore, no delay in this respect; but if the work of compensation devolves on the Collector, it will inevitably be made over to native agency, and the poor people will be obliged to beguile their claim for houses and grounds to their heirs. The same obliquity will then be attached to the character of Government in reference to the Railway under which it now labors regarding the grand Trunk road, on which it is discovered that much of the ground which was taken on the promise of immediate payment, has not been paid for to this day, though twelve or fourteen years have since elapsed. It is therefore necessary not only that Government should appoint a successor to Mr. Lushington, when his services are transferred to the Board, but that the choice of a Commissioner should be a matter of serious and conscientious attention. The office should not be disposed of on the importunities of Ditch interest. We require the man best fitted for the post, and not one whom the post will best suit, a man of active habits, and great energy of character, and one who is not afraid of responsibility—that great bugbear of the Nineteenth century.

**THE BURNING OF SHIPS IN THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.**—The loss of more than two hundred lives by the burning of the *Kilrarny*, within three weeks after the loss of the *Buckinghamshire* by fire, is calculated to produce a deep sensation. To whatever cause the loss of this latter vessel may be attributed, the destruction of the former can only be attributed to an act of incendiarism perpetrated by the

Lascar crew, who had just received three months' pay in advance. Our port has hitherto been comparatively exempt from these crimes which have been so common at Bombay; and it affords matter for much reflection, that they should have commenced here just after the passing of an Act, which was intended to prevent the recurrence of them at the Western Presidency. It would be ridiculous to attribute these acts of incendiarism among us to the operation of the Act, but it is manifest that its provisions afford no protection against them. There is, moreover, every reason to fear, that incendiarism in the Port at Bombay will hereafter be carried on without any let or hindrance whatever, and hence it becomes an imperative duty to reconsider its clauses of the Act, and to make all the provision which the legislative wisdom of the Council can devise against the recurrence of these melancholy scenes.

The crew of the *Kilrarny* was not shipped through the Marine Registry office. Mr. [?] inclined to think that if the crew were under compulsory act, to be invariably furnished from this office, and the salutary influence of its functionaries was thus substituted for the pernicious influence of the Ghat Serangs, the burning of ships would be in a great measure, if not altogether, prevented. It is true that the crew of the *Buckinghamshire* were shipped through this office; but it is by no means so evident that the destruction of that vessel was a necessary consequence as that of the *Kilrarny*.

It is certain, that the large advance of pay which the men receive, gives them the strongest incentive to endeavor to release themselves from obligation, by setting the ship on fire. If we were rendered imperative, that the men should be engaged through this office, the amount of advances might possibly be curtailed; at least, after a little opposition from the men and their leaders, the Serangs, which would cease when it was found to be futile. We can see no possible objection to such an arrangement; on the contrary, great benefit must arise from making this government office the centre of influence near the native lascars. If they were shipped by the Registry, they would resort to him at their return to port, to adjust their accounts, and every dispute between them and the commanders would be settled in his office. If the ship in which they were embarked, were lost in the river, they would be obliged to present themselves at this office, or forfeit all chance of again obtaining employment. The gradual influence of this association, would in time produce a salutary change in their character, and possibly prevent the recurrence of these calamities. The Marine Registry should also be invested with more power than he now enjoys; and his office made more efficient.—At any rate, something must be done to amend and improve the Act, or the Insurance office will be constrained to refuse a policy of Insurance to vessels with a lascar crew. Now that the abrogation of the Navigable Act gives all foreign vessels free access to the port, we shall not be long without American or Danish ships competing with the vessels which have hitherto been manned by lascar crews.

**THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.**—The local papers have just announced that intelligence has been received from Diamond Harbour by means of the Electric Telegraph. The direct communication was opened between that station and Calcutta on the 3d instant, and it is found to have succeeded most completely and satisfactorily. It is as superior in precision as it is in speed.

to the old Semphore; besides which, it possesses the advantage of being available in all weathers. The half-educated boys who have been trained in the novel science of signalling, have sent up the names of French vessels, of their Commanders, of the port, and the date of departure, with singular accuracy, though most of the words were in French. In the infancy of our operations, it is found more advisable to adopt the system of spelling, because though very slow and difficult, it is far more certain than the use of numbers.

We have now to wait the effect which may be produced by the heavy rains of the next rainy season upon the experiment, before any confidence can be placed in its success. Should the result correspond with our wishes, the question may be considered ripe for decision, and it will then be for Government to decide, whether the sum of *Seven lakhs and a half of Rupees* shall be expended for two successive years in the establishment of a line embracing Calcutta, Agra, Bombay, Simlah, and Lahore. All that appears at present to be required, to give these stations news from London within the month, and to render the supreme Government ubiquitous, is 130,000*£*, or the amount of *two days' gross revenue* of this empire. Indeed, as the late intelligence from England, that of the 7th of March, reached Bombay in twenty-seven days, it would have reached Calcutta by means of the Telegraph in the same period. There is every reason to believe that the Telegraph here will prove successful. The simple composition which Dr. O'Shaughnessy has used as a coating for the wire appears to be little affected by damp. It has apparently triumphed over our two greatest enemies, the heat and humidity of the climate. It is formed simply by boiling one-fourth of rosin with three-fourths of fine sand. As soon as the compound is cool, it becomes as hard as a stone. It is admirably adapted for roofs. We have exposed it on a piece of wood for three days to the burning, blistering sun of April, and we have buried it in water for two days together, without the slightest deterioration of its consistency.

**MILITARY MESSES.**—We have placed among our selections a very sensible letter from an old and experienced officer on the Bombay establishment sent by him to the *Dumby Times*, on the great question of Military Messes, now under discussion. He recommends that they should be made compulsory, and on the ground of economy, while we have been fighting against compulsion, because of the overwhelming expense which the mess too frequently entails on the junior branches of the service. We certainly did consider that as the Mess would necessarily be regulated by the higher allowances of the senior officers, it must be incompatible with the practice of economy among the junior ranks. We considered it inconsistent, and anomalous to force this heavy expenditure on them, at the same time that they were expected to confine their expenditure strictly within their income, and were exposed to a severe reprimand when they got into debt. We frankly confess that if all the Messes at this Presidency were managed with as much prudent thriftiness as the one to which the *Dumby Times'* correspondent belongs, one of the strongest objections we have felt against them would be obviated. We can suppose many advantages to the young officers individually, and to the regiment collectively, from the establishment of a well regulated Mess. But all these benefits would be purchased too dear, if they involved its members in embarrassment. All the rea-

peatability in the world will not compensate for the loss of pecuniary independence. The most essential element of the question, therefore, is the result of Messes on the officer's breeches pockets. Without this data before him, it is impossible for the Commander-in-Chief to form a just and satisfactory determination. The opinions of commanding officers on this subject, however valuable, ought not to be deemed conclusive. If the question is to be decided by the preponderance of opinion, there can be no reason for excluding that of the officers themselves, who are most deeply affected by the auspicious or injurious consequences of the Mess. They ought assuredly to be consulted before they are brought under social obligations, not embraced in their engagements with the state. Before his Excellency can feel any confidence in the view which he may form on the question, the financial result on individual independence of every Mess now existing at each of the Presidencies, ought to be submitted to him, and carefully investigated. The information should embrace the entire expense of the Mess, monthly, and for twelve months, the number of officers attached to it, and the proportion of the expense which fell on each. Sir William Gomm would thus be enabled to perceive at a glance, the effect of this system, on the personal and pecuniary interests of every officer connected with Messes, and be enabled to decide whether the compulsory establishment of them in every corps would be injurious or beneficial, in this all important point of view. The returns might also embrace the Regiments of the Crown, and thus afford a more extended field of comparison.

**THE REVENUES OF INDIA.—THE REVENUES OF THE PRINCE.**—The last mail has brought us a copy of a Parliamentary Return, relative to the revenues of India in 1848-49 and 1849-50, which was delivered to the members a few days before the Mail left. It is said to be a Return to an Order of the Honorable the House of Commons, dated 6th February, 1851. It is impossible to discover from this mode of expression, whether it was the Order for this Return which was issued on the 6th February, or whether the Return itself was delivered in on that day, the third after the meeting of Parliament. But there can be no doubt that the brevity and haste with which this document was laid before the House, and committed to press, and placed in the hands of the Members, is to be attributed to the anxieties created in Leadenhall Street by the remarks of the London Press. The Return of the previous year was not presented to the House before the 25th of June, and the delay in the presentation of these documents has been the subject of animadversion by the "Official Stationers Committee" of the House. To us on this side of the Cape, who are accustomed to witness the profound contempt with which the remarks of the Press are treated by the local authorities,—except in cases of personal reputation—it is a matter of amusement to mark the profound and salutary impression made on their Honorable Masters at home, by the London journals. They felt that if the fourth estate were unanimous in taking the field against them, the renewal of the "trust" of this Government, and of the patronage of India, would be placed in jeopardy. The estimated statement for the year 1849-50, enabled the Court of Directors to exhibit a surplus, and it was deemed important to announce this fact to the world at the earliest moment; and thus, papers which had usually been withheld for nearly five months, were eagerly thrust into the hands of

Members, and submitted to the organs of public opinion, before the Session was a week old.

The object of the statement is to show that there will probably be a surplus of no less than 77,062*£*. Strange to say, this surplus is created by carrying Half a Million Sterling to credit, as the value of the late Lahore Tashukhann, the produce of the confiscated elephants, grain, &c. although "the realization of this sum during the year 1849-50" is said, in this very document, to be exceedingly doubtful. There can be no doubt, however, that, independently of this contingent receipt, there will be a considerable surplus in the year.

The mode in which these accounts are made up is calculated to mislead the public, as to the actual revenues of India. The net Revenues of a country are always understood to signify the net produce of the Revenue, after deducting the charge of collection; but, in the statement annually presented by the India House to Parliament, various sums are huddled together with the "cost of collection," which are quite a hunch charges on the revenue, as the military and civil charges. Thus, allowances and assignments to Native Princes, to the extent of 141 lakhs of Rupees, are deducted from the credit side, instead of being entered on the debit side. In the Bombay accounts, no less a sum than 93 lakhs of allowances to District and Village officers, and charitable grants to mosques and pagodas, are, in like manner, deducted from the receipts, instead of being entered, as they ought to have been, among the charges. We have also to remark the anomaly of deducting the cost of manufacturing the Salt and Opium from the income, before it is carried to account, while the corresponding expense of the Post office, and of the Mint, instead of being thus dealt with, is formally entered among the charges. Mr. Walker's annual statement, published by the Government of Bengal, is a more straightforward and intelligible document, and never mystifies. It gives us all the receipts under each head separately, on the one side, and all the expenditure of each department on the opposite side. It appears moreover, strange, that in turning the Indian exchange into sterling money of Great Britain, the colicage should be taken at 2 shillings the Sicca Rupee, at the time when the Court of Directors are drawing upon Calcutta at the rate of 2 shillings and a penny the Company's Rupee. Can it be, that the Court of Directors dread to disclose to the people of England, the full extent of the revenue they administer in British India, and that these various contrivances are adopted to reduce the sum total of Indian revenues? Such at least is the natural effect of this arrangement, whatever may be the cause of it. The extent of this discrepancy will be apparent by a comparison of the actual gross revenue, as published in the last article of the XIX. Number of the *Calcutta Press*, which has just issued from the Press, with the net revenue exhibited in this document.

	Gross Revenue.	Net Revenue.
Bengal Presidency,	10,72,58,000	8,72,86,000
North West Provinces,	5,63,17,000	4,78,02,000
Madras,	5,15,14,000	3,98,68,000
Bombay,	5,94,14,000	3,69,59,000
Punjab, old and new territory,	5,00,00,000	1,50,55,000

Rs. 77,68,64,000 Rs. 21,86,48,000

The Court of Directors, by taking the exchange, as we have said, at 2*½*, the Sicca Rupee, make out the net revenue to be only 220,496,000, whereas the gross revenue, at par, is 427,984,000.

The revenues and the expenses of the Punjab are for the first time brought to account in this Return. The finances of that country have been extensively discussed by our Bombay con-

temporaries, who are agreeably surprised to find that a kingdom, which was represented before the conquest as not likely to pay its expenses, has in the first year of our acquisition afforded a large surplus revenue. The statements to which they have had access, however, are deficient in accuracy, and we regret to say that the figures given in the Return signed by Mr. Melville, are equally wide of the mark. It states that the Punjab and the Trans Indus Territories are calculated to yield in the year 1849-50, the sum of Rs. 188,83,000, but of this sum, 54,00,000 Rs. consists of "Extraordinary credits for estimated value of property in the late Government Jewel office, sale of confiscated elephants, grain, &c. and compensation in lieu of Sowers"—a perfectly unintelligible term, for compensation belongs to debit and not to credit. According to this statement, the regular and permanent revenues of the Punjab, would amount only to 134,58,000 Rs. while the charges are stated at 1,02,28,000. These figures are manifestly inaccurate. In the article in the *Review* to which we have alluded above, there is a statement of the finances of the Punjab, drawn from the most authentic source, and brought down to the latest period, on the accuracy of which the most implicit reliance may be placed. The Punjab consists, 1st, of the old Territory, or the Jullundur Doab, and the Cis-Satluj districts, obtained by the treaty of 1816, and 2dly, of the Punjab proper, which was annexed to the British dominions after the battle of Goozrat. The revenue of these two divisions stands thus:—

	New Territory.	Old Territory.	Total.
Land Revenue, ...	1,01,90,413 0	7,15,04,465 11	9
Excise Collecting, ...	3,46,448 7	6,00,288 7	6
2 Punjab Customs abolished, ...	0 0	5,66,403 9	5,66,403 9
3 Salt Revenue, Current and Arrears, ...	4,25,449 4	10,21,398 3	14,46,847 12
4 Tributes, ...	4,68,520 0	17,879 11	4,86,399 11
5 Tithes, ...	1,10,088 6	11,00,828 8	12,10,916 14
6 Post Office, ...	1,72,643 9	3,60,080 10	5,32,723 9
7 Local Road and Ferry Funds, ...	2,11,188 6	1,81,757 6	3,92,945 12
Grand Total ...	1,24,91,292 2	24,081,840 6	25,33,132 8

An analysis of the expenditure of the year 1849-50 gives the following details:—

	Old Territory.	New Territory.
Civil, ...	10,00,000	41,72,736
Military Police, ...	7,84,500	16,02,040
Total Expenses of the old Territory, ...	20,34,500	57,74,776
Expenses of the new Territory, ...		75,46,481
Total expenses for new and old Country, ...		1,33,21,257

The entire receipts are above two crores, or two millions sterling. The receipts from the older territory are 69,00,000 Rs.; while the ex-

pense of the Civil Administration and the Military Police, is only Rs. 20,34,000, leaving a clear surplus on the acquisitions of 1846 of Rupees 43,00,000. The prospective expense of the civil and military establishments of the Punjab proper is thus estimated for the year 1850-51.

Military expenses, ...	37,50,000
Punjab corps, camel and guide corps, ...	20,50,000
Civil Establishment, Customs, &c., ...	47,00,000
Penitents, ...	15,00,000
Public works of utility, ...	10,00,000
	131,00,000

If this be placed against a revenue of Rs. 140,00,000, we shall still have a surplus of 9,00,000 Rs. which, added to that of the older acquisitions "would give a net revenue of Rs. 52,00,000. The military expense of Rs. 37,50,000, mentioned above, consists of that addition to the military expenditure of the empire which may be fairly chargeable to the acquisition of the Punjab, and which is thus estimated in this record:—

Three additional European corps, ...	16,50,000
Two hundred additional men for 75 Native Infantry corps, ...	15,00,000
Feshawar batts, ...	6,00,000
	37,50,000

If this be deducted from the expenses of the Punjab, and charged to the general Military establishment of this Presidency—which has evidently been done in the Return,—we shall have a clear surplus of about 90 lakhs of Rupees a year, after the civil, fiscal, and police expenses of the Punjab have been defrayed. And, as the life paygrants and the pensions lapse, the surplus revenue may be expected to present a still more favorable aspect. Much, however, will evidently depend on the expenditure incurred in the erection of cantonments, which threatens to absorb all the surplus for some years to come. The cost of removing the cantonments from Anarkulke to Meer Meer, has been estimated at Fifty lakhs of Rupees, and the expense of another of the cantonments which has been contemplated, if not sanctioned, is roughly computed at Thirty-five lakhs of Rupees more. This great financial question will doubtless receive all that attention from Lord Dalhousie which its importance demands. If we expend a million sterling or more in cantonments, the prospect of obtaining relief to our general finances from the surplus of the Punjab, must be postponed to a very distant period.

EDUCATION AT THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.  
COL. JERVIS AND SIR ERKINE PERRY.—We have many apologies to make for having so long neglected to offer any remark on the educational controversy at Bombay in which the late chief Engineer, and the Chief Justice may be said to represent the opinions of the two parties. At the same time, we must confess that it requires no ordinary resolution to enter upon a discussion, in which it appears as if we were destined never to make any progress whatever. In theory, there is apparently no difference between the two parties; it is only when the commencement of practical measures is urged, that we find them at issue. In the *Bombay Telegraph* of the 12th March last, there is a very good abstract of the opinions of the Anglicists and the Vernacularists, which we propose to take as the basis of the very brief observations we shall offer. "Mr. Willoughby, who is the echo of Colonel Jervis's sentiments, is of opinion that the vernacular is the best and truest medium for imparting a knowledge of European science, philosophy, and literature to the natives of India." But, says the Editor, the Governor in Council instead of supporting the opinion of Mr. Willoughby, one of its most influential members, actually lays down, in the letter to Mr. Stowell, the "principle on which Sir Erskine Perry is determined to act,"—which is this, "In the opinion of Government, it is justly stated, that a superior order of education can only be imparted through the medium of English, and it is further believed, that if over a high standard of knowledge and intelligence shall replace throughout the country, the ignorance and the error at present prevailing, we shall be indebted for such a triumph to mankind imbued with the science and literature of Europe, acquired through the medium of the English language." This cannot however accurately represent the opinion of Sir Erskine, the President of the Board of education. He states, that "the Board are alive equally with Colonel Jervis to the necessity of the vernacular languages being the medium of instruction to the masses, to the importance of promoting the growth of vernacular literature, and to the urgency of providing vernacular Schools." This is in fact all that the most ardent vernacularist in Bengal has ever advocated, and there is therefore in fact, no difference whatever in opinion, between Sir Erskine and those who most strenuously insist on the importance of vernacular instruction. Let this opinion be carried out into practice, and we have nothing further to desire. But, says the *Telegraph and Courier*, the principle on which Sir Erskine is determined to act, is that "if over a high standard of knowledge and intelligence is diffused through the country, it will be through the agency of those who have been imbued with the science and literature of Europe, through the medium of English." To act on this principle, however, would apparently signify that all the pecuniary sources of Government, and all the exertions of the Educational Board, should be devoted exclusively to the diffusion of European knowledge through the English tongue.

The difference, therefore, between the two parties, appears to be this, that while the Anglicists fully acknowledge the importance of vernacular instruction for the masses, and the urgency of providing vernacular Schools, they are unwilling that any immediate effort whatever should be made, to carry these views into effect. The Vernacularists, on the other hand, urge the necessity of an immediate and practical effort to establish a system of vernacular education,—not warranted to fail, but intended to succeed,—simultaneously with the most strenuous exertions to give a superior education to the upper classes, through the medium of English. The difference is not upon first principles; on these both parties are agreed, but upon the necessity of carrying out those principles without delay. We are confident that Sir Erskine is perfectly sincere in his professions regarding the importance of vernacular education for the masses.—At the same time, we can readily account for the deeper interest which he takes in the English Seminaries and Colleges, inasmuch as the machinery for the English education is already in operation, and has to a certain degree produced very successful results, while every thing has to be originated and organized in the vernacular department. We should consider it a great misfortune for his attention to be in any measure withdrawn from those English institutions, which are so greatly indebted to his fostering care. But we are sure, he will concur with us in wishing that while those who like himself have a strong predilection for the progress of English education, should be free to devote their time



and energies exclusively to it, another Committee should be formed, for the prosecution of vernacular tuition, from among those who take a particular interest in it. The two bodies might pursue their labors in their respective spheres without clashing, and with the pleasing conviction that they were engaged in promoting the same great object of national improvement, though in different departments. The English and the vernacular section of education should be kept as distinct as the Military and the Judicial departments in the public service, and each entrusted to the agency under which it is most likely to flourish.

Bombay possesses advantages for maturing and extending a system of vernacular education, which do not exist among us. There appears to be a large body of influential men at that Presidency, who regard this question as one of the highest practical importance. Here, we doubt whether any one of the members of the Government can see the education of the people in their own language. Their sympathies are exclusively given to English instruction. At Bombay, there is already a large body of works translated into the popular languages, and ready for use; here we have them in a great measure to create. There, a considerable establishment of vernacular Schools has long existed, which the Government is anxious to improve and enlarge. Here, the hundred and one vernacular Schools set up about five years ago, were placed under the Board of Revenue, and were considered from the very commencement in the same light in which the *Pasceys* regard the Reformation—a Great Mistake. They have now been gradually reduced to twenty-six, and will become extinct in another twelve months. Bombay is therefore the Presidency for a fair and honest vernacular experiment.

To afford any prospect of success, there must be in the first place, a Normal School for training masters, under the superintendence of a European, possessed of all the qualifications necessary for the work; one well versed in the English language and European science, thoroughly master of the vernacular tongue, and ready to work for love as well as money. The establishment of this Normal School would necessarily lead to the creation and rapid maturity of a system of tuition, in which the embryo School masters would be trained. The vernacular treatises now existing would be brought into use, and it would be immediately perceived what other books were required; and they would be supplied as fast as they were needed. When the masters had thus completed the circle of training, they should be sent to preside over the different vernacular Schools, inside over the same course of instruction would thus be introduced. Equally important with the Normal Seminary is an Inspector of Schools, who should travel about from district to district, visiting every school three or four times in the year, diligently examining the progress of the scholars, marking every most forward and promising, and making every effort to give them a footing in the office of the Judge, or Magistrate, or Collector. The youths should enter at the bottom of the official ladder, and be left to work their own way up. To establish this connection between the public service and the public vernacular Schools, is a matter of greater difficulty and difficulty than may be at first supposed, because it interferes with the patronage of the European government officials at the head of the offices, and we would therefore urge the adoption of the plan devised by the *Chief* Governor of the North West, and the appointment of a Christian to the office. With the Normal School,

the Civilian Inspector, and the certainty that successful study would lead to promotion in the public service, the difficulties which appear to surround the question of vernacular education would gradually disappear, and the Native servants of Government, would be brought into the same intellectual associations with their masters, and a new bond of union would be created between the governors and governed. At the same time, European knowledge and science would be invested with importance and influence throughout the district, by the official dignity and the prospects of its votaries.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY'S INSTITUTION, BHOWANIPORE, CALCUTTA.—The foundation stone of this educational institution was laid on Tuesday, the 8th April, by the Rev. T. Boaz, L. L. D., in the presence of a large assembly, joyfully connected with the Independent denomination, or generally interested in the cause of religious education. Bhowanipore, one of the suburbs of Calcutta, has been selected as the site for the building, and although the locality is neither a pleasant nor a picturesque one, it has been wisely chosen, in reference to the dense population of that quarter, which has hitherto been to a great extent without the means of either secular or religious instruction. The only educational establishment of importance is the Seminary founded by the same energetic Missionaries, who are now giving a local habitation and a name to their noble institution by the construction of this edifice. The institution, we are condensing from Dr. Boaz's address, during its early years, met with that opposition, which has invariably attended every fresh effort on the part of the Missionary body in India, to spread abroad the light of intellectual and religious improvement, and, as usual, firmness and perseverance have overcome the obstacles both of circumstances, and superstition. When the school was first opened at Bhowanipore, it contained twenty-two pupils, of whom sixteen were Christian boys, but during a long and persevering struggle, this number has gradually increased, and in 1850 it furnished the means of instruction to six hundred boys, besides two smaller branch Schools with a hundred pupils in each. Six years ago, it was resolved by the Missionaries connected with the London Missionary Society, that as there appeared to be a wide field of usefulness opening before them, they would endeavour to place their educational establishments upon a more permanent basis.

In India, as elsewhere, the first step necessary to secure such permanence is the erection of a suitable building, and a subscription was opened in this country which produced about Seven thousand rupees. As this sum was totally inadequate to the object, Dr. Boaz took upon himself the task of appealing to the public in England, and succeeded in collecting a sum of about fifty thousand rupees, making altogether fifty-seven thousand rupees. With this sum, he returned to India, and after considerable delay, owing principally, we believe, to difficulties in the purchase of land, the foundation stone of the Institution was laid. The building, when completed, is intended to accommodate at least Eleven hundred pupils, and will contain a place of residence for native students for the ministry, a boarding school for native Christian and Orphan children, and accommodations for one of the Missionaries. The College will also have a class for young men attached to it, who will be trained expressly for the work of diffusing the Gospel among the heathen. It is estimated that about sixty-eight thousand rupees will be required, for the completion of this great design. Of this sum, fifty-

four thousand rupees is already in the hands of Dr. Boaz; the remainder, for which the Missionaries look to the Indian public, is about fourteen thousand rupees, and we have little doubt that it is easily procurable.

It affords us the most sincere pleasure thus to be enabled to record each successive step in the onward path of improvement. Much has been said to deprecate the platform eloquence in England concerning Indian Missions, but it is our firm conviction that the importance of these and similar Institutions is not yet sufficiently appreciated at home. In India, we are accustomed to view things, and more particularly populations, upon so large a scale, that we scarcely recognize the real significance of the figures we write. Who, for instance, would suppose for a moment, that the number of students to be educated in the Institution we now allude to, is equal to half that of the University of Cambridge; or that the number of youths receiving instruction in the Colleges of Calcutta and its neighbourhood, is greater than that of all the Universities and Colleges in England put together? Year after year, they are sending into the bosom of native society, thousands of young men, who, though they may not have much in common with Christianity, have utterly abnegated the superstitions of their forefathers. Moreover, though there may be several points in the general character of "Young Bengal" which render the party which bears that title a fair object of ridicule, they are still never unsuccessful in the race of life. No one ever met a native beggar speaking English, though we have seen one talking Sanscrit, and no one ever sees a College student reduced to any very great privations. Poor though many of them are, there are no paupers among them, and this is no slight evidence that education, even in India, is a powerful instrument not only for civilizing the people, but for conferring that energy of character and calm self-reliance which are so necessary in the nineteenth century. We wish these Institutions rose even faster than they do, and we bid that of Bhowanipore, and its projectors, with all cordiality, God speed.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY BY THE STEAMERS TO PORTS IN THE EAST.—We are happy to perceive that the Peninsular and Oriental Company are wisely preparing themselves for the competition now expected by reducing the rates of passage money from Calcutta to Madras, Galle, and Bombay: The passage to Madras has hitherto cost 220 Rs.; and that to Galle 220 Rs. In both cases, it is to be reduced by 80 Rs. The passage to Bombay is fixed at 420 Rs. This is a salutary and timely reduction, and will be received with feelings of gratitude by the community in India.

The line from Calcutta to the Straits and China, is to commence in the ensuing month of May. The rates of passage money have been fixed on the whole, at a moderate rate. To Penang, direct, 250 Rs., to Singapore 230 Rs., and to Hong-Kong 330 Rs. But if the distance between Calcutta and Singapore is the same as that from Calcutta to Galle, if the quantity of eatables and drinkables consumed be the same, then we hope that much time will not be allowed to elapse before the charges for passage money are placed on an equality. A trip to sea for the benefit of health in this exhausting climate, is very often required by a very moderate means, and the Company cannot perform a more acceptable service to the community, than to fix the charge at a sum which will place this inestimable boon within their reach. It is, for travellers who must ob-





















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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND C. CO.'S STRAKER "HINDUSTAN," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.

NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Hong Kong, Amoy, Swatow, Canton, Shanghai, Yokohama, Kobe, and other ports, will be despatched on Friday, the 23rd Proximo, at 10 o'clock, and will be delivered at Hong Kong, Amoy, Swatow, Canton, Shanghai, Yokohama, Kobe, and other ports, on Saturday, the 24th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kulupey, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to be aware that no letters for the Hindustan can be received after 3 p. m. of that date.

EXPRESS OVERLAND EXPRESS MAIL VIA BOMBAY.

NOTICE is hereby given that an Express Packet (containing exclusively of overland letters and parcels) of the prescribed maximum weight of 500 lbs., will be despatched on Friday, the 23rd Proximo, at 10 o'clock, and will be delivered at Hong Kong, Amoy, Swatow, Canton, Shanghai, Yokohama, Kobe, and other ports, on Saturday, the 24th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kulupey, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to be aware that no letters for the Hindustan can be received after 3 p. m. of that date.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donation:  
From E. W. H., Co's Rs. 10, to the Benevolent Institution, Calcutta.

## JUTEE PERSAD'S TRIAL AND ACQUITTAL.

We noticed last week that the trial of Jutee Persad, the great and wealthy contractor, for fraud, had terminated in his favor. While the case was pending, we considered it improper to offer any observations on it, though we were as fully in possession of the merits and demerits of it, as we could have desired; but every feeling of delicacy is now removed, and we are fully at liberty to discuss the character and results of the trial. The public had been led to believe that this criminal information was instituted, after Jutee Persad had commenced an action against Government in the Supreme Court for more than half a million sterling, which he alleged to be due to him. The criminal action was thus represented as a cross suit, intended to intimidate the contractor from prosecuting his just claims against the state. It is, of course, needless to say that any such proceeding would have inflicted such injury on the character of Government, as no pecuniary gain could in any degree have compensated for. We have therefore been anxious to ascertain the correctness of this assertion, which was put forth with so much confidence, and have made all the enquiries within our reach, relative to the history of the prosecution, which stands thus:

It appears that petitions from informers regarding these frauds began to be presented so far back as February, 1849, at first, to the local Commissioner's officers, and soon after, to the higher functionaries. The matter was then brought before the Military Board, who referred the petition to Capt. Ramsay, Joint Deputy Commissary General, on the 23rd of May, 1849. He stated in reply, that the petition was not only unworthy of credence, but deserving of condemnation, for, however false might be the charge brought forward, the credit of the department generally suffered from the gratuitous allegations of worthless and profligate characters. On the receipt of Capt. Ramsay's letter,

the Military Board took up the discussion, and, as might have been expected, became divided in opinion; on the one side it was asserted that the writer's motive was mercenary, and that his object was to extort money; on the other, it was urged that the petition should be forwarded for the consideration of Government. This difference led the Board to send up the question to the President of the Council of India, who, on the 13th of February 1850, addressed the Lieutenant Governor of the North West Provinces, suggesting that instructions should be given to the proper civil authority at Agra, with a view to a thorough and minute investigation, the result of which was to be duly reported to Government. On the 11th of March, 1850, the Lieutenant Governor ordered the Magistrate of Agra to institute the most searching enquiry into the case, and report the result. This enquiry was conducted by Mr. Denison,

Officiating Magistrate, and subsequently Officiating Joint Magistrate. On the 27th of June, the then Officiating Magistrate, Mr. Gubbins, submitted a report of the progress of the enquiry, stating that after having examined the whole of the proceedings up to that date, and one or two of the principal parties concerned, he was fully satisfied that the existence of most extensive fraud had been established. Mr. R. K. Dick, the Magistrate of Bijnore, and Mr. Wylly, the Joint Magistrate of Bareilly, had at the same time investigated the charge of fraud in regard to the entertainment of British bullocks, and both officers reported the existence of fraud to a great extent. On receiving these reports, the Government of the North West Provinces, sent orders to the Magistrate of Agra, on the 23rd of July, to examine into and expose the fraud, which the contractor was supposed to have committed, and to proceed against him according to law. It was at this stage of the proceedings that Jutee Persad proceeded to Calcutta—in September, last year—and there instituted the suit for fifty odd lakhs of Rupees against Government in the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, Mr. Gubbins sent in his report to the Lieutenant Governor, and his report having been submitted to the Governor General, his Lordship stated as his opinion that "the criminal trial should be proceeded with." From this brief narrative it appears evident, that it was Jutee Persad who commenced the civil suit against Government, when the criminal prosecution was in progress, and not Government who dragged Jutee Persad into the Criminal Courts after he had brought them into the Crown Court on a civil action. If we are to admit the idea that either suit was intended to influence the progress of the other, it was the civil suit which was designed by the Contractor to counteract the criminal prosecution then instituted.

The only question, therefore, for consideration is, whether the Governor General, the Lieut. Governor of Agra, and the Deputy Governor of Bengal had sufficient cause for directing the charges of fraud which had been preferred against the great and opulent contractor, to be submitted to a legal investigation. We think decidedly that Government was fully borne out in the determination which was formed to bring the alleged delinquent to justice. The independent opinion of the three highest functionaries

in the state on such a question, precludes all possible supposition of the existence of collusion, or vindictive motives. As the guardians of the public interests and responsible to the superior authorities in England, they were bound to submit these grave charges to a regular legal investigation, and they might have been chargeable with a serious dereliction of duty if they had refrained from ordering a prosecution to be instituted. They may be considered as having acted very much in the capacity of a grand jury, with whom rests the responsibility of determining whether sufficient cause has been shown, from the nature of the evidence adduced, for sending a case up to the Jury. They were, in fact, without any option in the matter, for if they had allowed such heavy charges of fraud to remain unnoticed, we see not what other charges they could, with any show of justice, have undertaken to prosecute.

The trial appears to have been conducted on fair and equitable principles. The accused had the inestimable benefit of an eminent English barrister, of great tact, and legal experience, and no small forensic ability, while neither the Judge nor the Government prosecutor had any knowledge of English law. Whenever the point turned, as it did in many instances, on objections common to the procedure of English Courts, but unknown in the more simple and primitive Courts of the country, the advantage was entirely in favor of the accused. Mr. Wylly, who appeared on behalf of Government, conducted a most intricate case, involving an overwhelming mass of evidence, on very short notice, with singular ability, and by his management of the suit has established a high reputation in the service, but we think that a case like the present, where the defendant had the advantage of English Counsel, the prosecution should not have been denied the same benefit.

As to the result of the trial, whether it would have been of a different complexion if all the material evidence which was excluded, had been admitted, it is not for us to say. The acquittal of the accused must be taken as a fact; and in one point of view, we consider it a most important and gratifying fact. In the Memorial presented to Government, against the so-called Black Acts, one of the greatest objections which was raised against them, had reference to the construction of the Company's Courts. It was stated, that some of the Judges of the Courts of the East India Company, "possess no doubt, high honor and integrity, and a much nearer approach to judicial fitness than others, but none possess a shadow of judicial independence, because every one is a servant of the East India Company, and removable at pleasure, a power which is not suffered to be dormant, and because all are compelled to act under a system by which the Orders and Circulars of Government, and of the superior Courts, have the force of law, even in matters affecting life and death." If ever there was a case in which these alleged defects of the country courts were likely to be fully developed, and the charges brought against them to be unequivocally substantiated, it was in the present instance. The prosecution was instituted by Government, the Court was a Company's Court, the Judge was a servant of Government; the Prosecutor was a servant of Government; the

Jury were in Government employ. It was repeatedly and confidently predicted, that the defendant had not the remotest chance of escape, because the constitution of the Court ensured his condemnation. Yet he has been at once acquitted. Every accusation which has been made regarding the want of judicial independence in the Judges of the country Courts, because every one is a servant of the East India Company, and removable at pleasure, and because this power of removal is not suffered to lie dormant, is at once refuted by a reference to this trial. The charge of habitual and inevitable subservience to the Government, on the part of the Judges in its service, is triumphantly disposed of. In one of the most important suits in which the Government has been engaged for many years, the Government has been defeated in its own Courts by a Judge, and a Jury, who are its own servants. Whether the decision was just or unjust, we will not enquire; this fact at least is established beyond all further question, that the Judges are not affected by the fear of removal, and that they have the solid substance, however they may want the shadow, of judicial independence.

**THE EAST INDIA COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.**—We stated last week that Sir Charles Wood was reported to have said in the House of Commons, that the refusal of Sir John Hobhouse, as the organ of the Ministry, to appoint a Committee of Enquiry in reference to the approaching expiration of the period for which the Government of India was entrusted to the East India Company, had reference only to the present Session of Parliament. We naturally conclude, therefore, that it is not the intention of the Whig Cabinet, if it should remain in power, to refuse the appointment of a Committee at the beginning of the next Session. It is not likely that the manufacturing interest in England will be content to allow any new arrangements to be made for the government of India, without a thorough investigation of the result of the present administration. There is too deep a feeling of dissatisfaction abroad, at the existing system, both in official and unofficial circles; and too general and strong a conviction that it cannot and ought not to be perpetuated without great modifications and improvements, to render it possible to stifle enquiry. We feel confident that a Committee will be appointed at the meeting of Parliament in the ensuing year. Unfortunately, however, the period of a single session will not be sufficient for any adequate investigation of the working of our administration in so many different departments. Six months is too short a time for such an enquiry; and it will, therefore, be partial, insufficient and unsatisfactory. According to established precedent, the year 1853 will be devoted to the discussion of the question in the House, which will be obliged to come to some determination regarding the future government of this country before the close of the Session. This determination ought to be based upon the report of the Committee, which should therefore be placed in the hands of members, together with the evidence, at the commencement of the Session.

It does not appear to have been sufficiently noticed that Lord Ellenborough was offered a seat in Lord Stanley's Cabinet, and that he offered to take charge of the Board of Control! Whatever may be the extent of his natural abilities and his official Indian experience, he certainly would have been out of place in such a position, and his appointment to the office of President of the Board, must necessarily have

thrown the affairs of India into a state of the most lamentable confusion. The man on whom the Court of Directors had inflicted the mortification of a recall from the office of Governor General, ought not to be entrusted with that absolute control over all their movements, which the President of the Board enjoys. Even supposing his Lordship to be endowed with this very high degree of magnanimity, and to be capable of entirely forgetting what are now technically called "antecedents," still, it would have been an act of indiscretion to incur the risk of embarrassment, by bringing him into contact with the conscript fathers of Leadenhall Street. We have therefore an additional reason for our congratulation at the failure of Lord Stanley's attempt to construct a Ministry. It has been rumoured in Calcutta that in the event of Sir James Graham's having joined Lord John Russell's cabinet, Lord Dalhousie would have been invited to preside at the Board of Control. We cannot conceive of an event more auspicious for the interests of India; but the intelligence is much too good to be true. It appears to have been the settled determination of all Ministries in England, whether Whig or Tory, to exclude from the office of President, every individual who has qualified himself for it by long experience in the local administration of this country. During the sixty-seven years which have elapsed since the Board was established, only one of the officers who has administered the affairs of any of the Presidencies, has ever been placed in the office of President—we allude to the Earl of Buckinghamshire; and nearly half a century has passed since he quitted that office. Even in the subordinate post of Secretary, Mr. John Elliott is the only gentleman who has resided in India, whom that office has been given. We have yet to try the experiment of placing one of our retired Governors General in the position of Minister for India, and entrusting the improvement of the country to him.

**EXPENDITURE IN INDIA ON PUBLIC WORKS FROM 1837-38 TO 1845-46 BY LIEUT. COL. W. H. SYKES, F.R.S.**—Lieut. Col. Sykes, generally known as the Statistical member of the Court of Directors, ought unquestionably to be the Chairman of that body. No Director has laboured so diligently to make out a strong case for the renewal of the Charter. Like Lord Brougham he appears to be perpetually watching the straw to ascertain in what direction the wind of public opinion is blowing, that he may lose no opportunity of removing impressions adverse to the interests of that great corporation. We have had repeated occasion to notice the diligence with which he contrives unostentatiously to place before the public notices as favourable to the East India Company; and in the paper now before us, we have another token of his indefatigable industry. One of the most serious charges brought against the administration of the Company in India, has always been the neglect of all public works, and the disadvantageous contrast which it exhibits, not only to the civilised Governments of Europe and America, but also to its less enlightened predecessors, the Mahomedans. It is impossible for any man to travel through the two provinces of Bengal and Behar, which have been longest in our possession, and which have yielded the largest amount of revenue, without a painful feeling that the charge is not without foundation. The appearance they present, after more than ninety years of occupancy, is that of the neglected estate of a spendthrift landlord. For the one good road which we have constructed, we have allowed twenty others to disappear. We

have erected one magnificent city, and every other city of note has been allowed to go to rack and ruin. With the exception of the trunk road, and the public edifices in Calcutta, there is nothing throughout these provinces to show that they have been for nearly a century under the government of the same people, who have rendered their own country "a theatre of wonders."

Col. Sykes has endeavored to meet this accusation by publishing a statement of the amount expended in India on account of public works in the Nine years extending from 1837-38 to 1845-46; and we learn with no small surprise, and perhaps some slight feeling of incredulity, that the sum total—at the four Presidencies—amounts to no less than 228 lakhs of Rupees, which is at the rate of about 23 lakhs of Rupees a year. This expenditure has thus been distributed among the Presidencies:

Madras, . . . . .	77,28,618 Rs.
North West Provinces, . . .	64,00,350
Bengal, . . . . .	49,33,082
Bombay, . . . . .	37,00,000

The statement now published by Col. Sykes is one of the most important statistical documents which we have seen, and it is as may hereafter be required for reference, we have transferred it to our columns. It certainly goes far to relieve the Court from the opprobrium of having neglected this important division of its duties, more especially when we bear in mind that during the nine years embraced in these tables, the Government of India was subject to a very heavy expenditure, and, in every year, except the first, constrained to provide its finances by loan. Col. Sykes, therefore, fully justified in stating that "a good deal has been done with borrowed money." It is, so to speak, of its poverty, that the Government of India has thus made appropriations for the construction, or maintenance of public works, when there might have been no small excuse for suspending them altogether. If it had been otherwise, and if the allowance for these works had been drawn from a full treasury, and we had been called to contrast the exertions of Government with its means, we might have entered upon an examination of some of these items, and possibly have found that the Government of India was not entitled to take credit for having contributed such large sums to public objects, from the income of the state. We might have pointed out that against the outlay for Canals, ought to have been placed the very large revenue derived from them; that the sum put down for roads in the North West might possibly be counterbalanced with the one per cent. which every zemindar is obliged to pay on his revenue for the construction of roads. A close examination of the item of embankments might have placed it in a different point of view. It might then have appeared that the Government was constrained to keep up these embankments, which in Bengal amounted in nine years to more than fifteen lakhs, by its own engagements at the time of the perpetual settlement; and that if these sums had not been expended in embankments, the Government would have been subjected to much larger payments in remissions of revenue, for the injury sustained by the inundations which the embankments are intended to prevent.

But it would be ungenerous to raise any such objections under the circumstances of the case. The sum which has been bona fide expended from the revenues of the country on public works is much larger than any one was prepared to expect, and the East India Company is justly entitled to all the credit due for the expenditure of so large a sum in a time of great pecuniary embarrassment. The

prospect, moreover, which is held out by Colonel Sykes of "the time which is fast approaching, when continued peace will leave a surplus revenue to be annually devoted to the extension of lines of communication, whether canal, rail, or road, and to other purposes for the further development of the acknowledged resources of India," glides the future with the beams of hope, and gives us confidence in the anticipation that a new era is dawning on this country. The sum which has been sanctioned for the great Ganges Canal, and the Canals in the Punjab, since Colonel Sykes's statement was drawn up—of which nearly a third has been expended—amounts to Two Millions Sterling. The Court have already sanctioned the expenditure of One Million on the Rail to the Collieries; and the security of their professions will speedily be put to the test by the demand now made for the sanction of two or three Millions more for the continuation of the line to the banks of the Soane. After reading Colonel Sykes's assurance of their liberal feelings regarding public improvement, we cannot have no doubt, that the guarantee for this sum will be voted at once, and with the utmost cordiality.

**RULES FOR THE PUNJAB SANATORIA.**—The Governor General and the Board of Administration of the Punjab have from the time of the annexation of that country, evidently been anxious to obviate a necessity for the constant departure of officers on sick leave to Simla and Mussoorie, by the establishment of Sanatoria within the limits of the Punjab itself. We are happy to learn that after considerable discussion, and a careful survey of several apparently eligible sites, a place called Murree, on a mountain Range, near Rawal Pindie, has been selected, and the Board of Administration have issued rules for the allotment of land, and the municipal regulations of the town, which is shortly expected to spring up. Perhaps it is fortunate for the future community of Murree, that there exists no population to demand elective municipality, and that Act XXVI. of 1850 does not extend to these out of the way regions. The regulations laid down by the Board of Administration are sufficiently clear and precise, but while they manifest great consideration for the real comfort and convenience of the future residents, and provide for the just compensation of the few peasants who may be dispossessed of their holdings, they evince little regard for those indefensible rights which have rendered Calcutta so remarkable for its title as the City of Palaces. After defining the boundaries of the new station, the Notification proceeds to make special regulations for the preservation of a fine forest which exists on the face of the mountain, but which is not extensive enough to admit of "thinning." The Board point out with great justice that the timber obtainable from this forest, if cut down and sold, would be of value only to the first settlers, whereas, if the groves are allowed to remain, and are carefully cleared of brushwood, they will form a pleasure ground of great value and convenience to future residents in the station. The great deficiency of water which is so often felt at these stations, is also provided against by reserving the property in all public springs and streams to the Government; the quarries, also, are only to be excavated in places, where they can be productive of no dangerous results. Next follow the rules for the allotment of land, which may be sold either by private contract, or by public auction, at the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner. Any person who wishes to

obtain a site, is to apply to that officer, and if the locality he selects be neither within the forest, nor likely to interfere with the claims of former purchasers, he will be able either to purchase it at once, or to cause it to be put up to auction. The upset price is to be Fifty Rupees an acre, but no lot of more than ten acres can be sold to any one purchaser. The object of this rule is evidently to prevent any single individual from making a great building speculation of the station, but it may be doubted whether the measure will have the intended effect. It is the natural tendency of house property in these sanatoria, to fall into the hands of the few resident proprietors, who alone are enabled to keep up their houses in a habitable condition. The Board have, however, wisely provided against land being allowed to continue useless, by a clause which directs that any site which may remain two years without having a house erected upon it, shall lapse to Government. The money obtained by the sale of the land, is to be applied to municipal improvements, and the fund thus created is to be further increased by the imposition of a house tax, amounting in amount to three per cent. upon the rental. A land tax of two Rupees per acre, which is also imposed upon the sites, is to be appropriated to the compensation of those villagers who may suffer loss from the occupation of their land.

The remainder of the rules, which are altogether twenty-six in number, refer to the punishment of ordinary nuisances—among which the omission to erect a boundary, is to be considered one—and to the registration and survey of the different estates. All these duties, and apparently all the municipal business of the station is to be entrusted to the Deputy Commissioner, and we have little doubt that within a short period, Murree, with an elevation of several thousand feet above the sea, will become one of the most popular and populous sanatoria in India.

**THE NEW OPIUM RULES.**—In the observations we published a fortnight ago, upon Dr. Fawcett's report on the manufacture of Opium at Benares, we remarked that the noxious qualities of the drug appeared to afford "the strongest defence of the monopoly. Were that monopoly abandoned, the quantity cultivated would be immediately increased, and the drug itself made more noxious than ever by adulteration. The Government monopoly is in fact an immense impost which is collected in a very peculiar manner, and which tends to repress cultivation." We now find, however, that before this was written, an order had been passed by the Court of Directors, which undermines this argument, and appears likely ere long, to produce a complete change in the manner of collecting the Government revenue from Opium. The cause and extent of the modification are thus detailed in the last article of the last number of the *Calcutta Review*.

"The Government here were convinced that a larger produce would be beneficial to the revenue, and in 1845 proposed a series of measures to the Court of Directors to facilitate to encourage the cultivation of the poppy. The Court refused to sanction them, thinking the Government stronger, and being of opinion that the produce ought not to be increased. Meanwhile the cultivation increased of itself, without the application of any stimulus, and, in 1848, the annual supply reached 30,000 chests, when the Government became alarmed and prohibited further extension. But it has since been found that even this increase does not lead to a proportionate fall in price, but that the country has greatly augmented the revenue. The prohibition itself, therefore, has been taken off, and the poppy of the central provinces will be allowed to grow as much as the soil will bear, but they will only receive from the Government three rupees eight annas a seed, instead of three rupees ten annas, or three rupees twelve annas, as they have hitherto done. This reduction on the cost will produce a saving to Government of about Rs. 50,000 a year."

The inevitable result of this measure must

be to expand the Opium cultivation to an almost indefinite extent, and if the remark of a contemporary, that it appears impossible to saturate the Chinese market with Opium, be correct, the price will in all likelihood be kept up nearly to its present limit, and the revenue be proportionately benefited. This expansion, however, opens up once more the whole question of the expediency of Government continuing its exclusive manufacture of the drug. When every ryot may cultivate as much Opium as he pleases, with the certainty of an immediate sale, the moral argument of the repressive tendency of the Government monopoly loses its force, and we are thrown back upon the simple question of expediency. Under this new aspect of the question, it is doubtful whether the monopoly will not speedily cease to be of practical importance. As soon as the cultivation is unlimited, the argument for keeping a monopoly of manufacture in the hands of Government becomes enfeebled, and a strong reason is presented for endeavoring to raise the same amount of revenue by an export duty, and relieving the public authorities from the odium of drugging the Chinese empire. If the cultivation were thrown open, there would doubtless be a rapid deterioration of the quality of the Opium, and there might be danger of a more extensive use of it in the country itself. But we think it is manifest that the permission now given to the natives to cultivate as much Opium as they please, will inevitably lead to the relinquishment of the monopoly of cultivation and manufacture, and it may not be improbable that the present measure is intended to pave the way for the change, if public opinion should be found at the Charter discussions, to render such a modification of the mode of raising this revenue necessary.

**REPORT OF THE DISTRICT CHARITABLE SOCIETY.**—According to our promise last week, we proceed to cite a fuller notice of the proceedings of this Society, which perhaps effects more in the way of alleviating positive misery, than any of the many Institutions which give Calcutta so fair a claim to the title of City of Charities. That the reader may comprehend at a glance the means by which it is enabled to effect so large an amount of good, we give the annual income of all its branches in the following table:

Receipts from subscriptions, in 1850, ...	Rs. 44,111
Lady William Bentinck's Fund, being the interest of 12,500 Rs. ....	861
Dwarkanath Tagore's Fund for the Blind, ... ..	5,600
Mrs. English's Charity, being interest of Rs. 50,500 at four per Cent., ...	2,850

Total, ... .. 52,552

With these funds, in addition to other objects, the European Almshouse and the Leper Asylum are maintained, the former having had in 1850 Two hundred and eighty-four inmates, and the latter, Fifty-seven. The deaths during the year among the inmates of the Almshouse, amounted to two and a half per Cent., a very low average, when we consider the condition of those admitted. The number of persons expelled, we presume for bad conduct, was little more than one per Cent., of the inmates, a fact which speaks well for the discipline of the institution. An effort is about to be made to convert the Almshouse into a House of Industry, by introducing the manufacture of gummy cloth for the men, instead of the picking of cotton which has hitherto formed their sole employment. The female inmates are employed in needlework, and the

articles made by them are already in high request. From the other charities enumerated in the above table, relief has been granted to 8185 persons, all residents of Calcutta, Barrackpore, and Howrah.

We regret to find from the Report, that it is in contemplation to erect a native Alms-house, where the paupers of the native community may be supported. Our experience of native society leads us to believe, that the money obtained from the contributions of the charitable should rather be devoted to the relief of those, who from physical or mental affliction are unable to seek resources for themselves. There is no one feature in the native character which gives so much satisfaction to the mind, as the readiness which rich and poor alike display to assist the destitute with food. There is scarcely a native house in Bengal, from which a really hungry man would be turned away, and very few where he would not receive even more substantial relief. It appears unwise to interfere with this feeling by providing the regular exchequer to go to the work-house, while, at the same time, an asylum for the maimed or blind can be productive only of unutilized good. The finances of the Society are flourishing, and their agents unwearied, and we hope they will be enabled still farther to enlarge the sphere of their benevolent exertions.

**DARJEELING SCHOOL.**—We cheerfully comply with the request which has been made us to publish and to support the project of establishing a Seminary for youths at Darjeeling. The Professor has well stated that for European children the climate of Darjeeling is not only excellent, but superior to that of England, being free from that formidable class of diseases, peculiar to young children in England, and having no analogous diseases of its own. Darjeeling is the inland Sanatorium for the districts of Bengal and Behar,—with the exception of those stations to the Eastward, which have greater facilities of communication with Cherra. It is therefore the spot, in these two provinces, the best adapted for an educational institution for children, who are designed to remain in the country, or to be detained in it to the age of nine or ten. We may also add, that if the Court of Directors should sanction the continuation of the Rail from Boodhoo to Rajmahal, and onwards to the Soane, it will be easy to reach the point opposite Carapola from Calcutta, or from Dinapore, in seven or eight hours. A good carriage road from Carapola ought to take the traveller in three days, if not less time, from that point on the Ganges to Darjeeling. The Rail will thus bring that station within four days of the Metropolis, and add popularity to the Institution, and induce many to avail themselves of the advantages which it will afford for education. Dr. Campbell, the Superintendent of Darjeeling, Mr. Hodgson, of the Bengal Civil Service, and Dr. Witcombe, who are the local Committee of management, propose to place the Seminary under the superintendence of a Clergyman of the Church of England, "married, and having a character thoroughly respected for good sense, good temper, good breeding, and practical converse with the training of young children." They are anxious to raise a subscription of 6000 Rs. which they hope will be sufficient to pay the Clergyman's passage from England, to provide a house at Darjeeling, and to defray his salary for one year "after which, or soon after, his salary, and also his house rent, will be covered by the receipts from the School." We earnestly recommend the prospectus, which will be found in a subsequent column, to the attention of all

those who are desirous of providing the means of education for their children, either temporarily, or permanently, in the most salubrious station in the lower and midland provinces.

#### THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH IN CHINESE.

We have just been favored with a copy of the "Philosophical Almanac" in Chinese, compiled by Dr. Macgowan, the Medical Missionary at Ningpo, and printed in that city in the last year of the reign of his Imperial Majesty, Hien Fung. The main design of the pamphlet is to communicate to the Chinese the principles of the Electric telegraph. It consists of Eighty-four pages, printed in the usual form of Chinese works, and illustrated by a large number of wood engravings, intended to convey an idea of the telegraph to the Chinese mind. "In this effort," says Dr. Macgowan, "the technical terms were formed with the aid of intelligent natives, before whom experiments were performed, illustrative of various electric and magnetic phenomena. It is probable that many natives will obtain very crude ideas from the perusal of this imperfect pamphlet, but judging from those who have read it in MS. it may reasonably be presumed that it can hardly fail to give the attentive enquirer a tolerably correct conception of the whole question."

"No sanguine expectations," says the writer, "are formed as to any speedy practical benefits to the Chinese from this great invention; those in power, will be slow to favor the introduction of such a novelty." It is, of course, not to be expected that the Imperial Cabinet will condescend to receive instruction from the outside barbarians, even in regard to a science which would so greatly augment the powers and efficiency of the Government, but while the present pamphlet opens a new field of thought to the literati, it may possibly give the public attention to such a view of the resources of the English nation, as to render the idea of a war with us less popular than it unfortunately appears to be. Dr. Macgowan has done great service to the cause of civilization and improvement by this very spirited effort, and we sincerely hope he will receive such support on this occasion as to encourage him to undertake the publication, which he proposes, of that "peculiar class of works, in which by the aid of modern science, the unsoundness of their own philosophy may be demonstrated, and some of the elementary truths of Christianity made evident."

**MR. CHARLES HOGG.**—We have much pleasure in publishing the farewell address of the Native officers of the Bank of Bengal to Mr. Hogg, the late Secretary, together with his reply. It is a very different kind of document from that which we have been accustomed to see, and in reference to which we were led to speak "of the manner of testimonial giving as having been carried almost to a ludicrous extent." To a most ludicrous extent it has certainly been carried, both in Calcutta, and the Mofussil, as both we and our contemporaries have had frequent occasion to notice. Indeed, so common had such addresses become here, as to appear to follow the retirement of every public officer, as a mere matter of course, and thus to be deprived of all value. In the present instance, however, the valetudinary address, which is drawn up in the most appropriate terms, not only appears to be free from the objections which lie against the vulgar crowd of such productions, but to possess great individual interest. Here, we have the native officers of one of the largest

police coming forward to testify their gratitude, in the most substantial form, for the uniform kindness they had experienced from the Secretary. Not the least gratifying portion of this address is the allusion to the firmness which Mr. Hogg had exhibited in maintaining the discipline of the establishment, and for which he incurred at one time no small censure in certain quarters. It must be pleasing to him, therefore, to learn from this spontaneous exhibition of feeling, that his firmness has not been mistaken by those under him for severity, and that at the time when all connexion between him and them was about finally to cease, they were anxious to testify that they had duly appreciated the uniform unanimity of his manner. This well earned testimonial cannot fail to be as gratifying to Mr. Hogg, as it is honorable to those who have presented it.

#### NORMAL SCHOOL FOR CHRISTIAN FEMALE TEACHERS.

We have very great satisfaction in giving a place in our columns, to a plan, devised and supported by Christian ladies in Calcutta, for the establishment of a Female Normal School. It will be found amongst our Selections, and we would direct to it the particular attention of all our readers, who are anxious to see increased means employed for the spread of civilization and religious truth amongst the natives of India. It has long been remarked that the only method by which we can hope to impart education to the masses of native females in this country, is by a judicious employment of female agency, and to procure such agents we must train them carefully. In order to make their teaching effectual for the mental improvement of their pupils, a thorough knowledge of the Bengali language is absolutely requisite, while it is no less necessary for the purpose in view that they should be deeply grounded in religious truth. The names of the Committee appointed to carry out the design, are a sufficient guarantee that it will be earnestly pursued, and that it deserves both the attention and support of every philanthropist in India. The funds to be raised are considerable, but there is seldom any want of liberality in India, and we may indulge a hope that many of the native gentlemen, who have signified their adherence to the noble cause of female education, will come forward liberally on the occasion.

**REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA FOR THE YEAR 1848-49, by J. McClintock, F. R. S. & C. S. Z. S.**—This work, which has been published by order of Government, has been for some time on our table, and we regret to find that the pressure of other claims on our editorial space has led us to postpone the notice of it.

On the death of Mr. Williams, the late Geological Surveyor of Government, Mr. McClintock was directed to assume charge of the Survey, then encamped at Haseerghur, and to take up the duties at the point where they were broken off by the death of his predecessor. But as no notice was given of the plan, Mr. McClintock consulted Captain Simpson, the Civil officer of the district, who informed him, that specimens of coal were presented to him while passing through Curruchoola, in 1843, to the north of the Barakar river, Mr. Hollings, who is now dead, had moreover offered to deliver coal at Secrighur, on the Ganges, at six annas a maund, and evidently from that vicinity. Mr. McClintock therefore determined to bend his attention to this district, and was thus enabled to discover the Curruchoola coal field, and to carry his researches northward to the Churupore hills, which stretch to Monghyr. When these labors were com-





















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England, and refuse to acknowledge any educational effort made beyond its own very limited pale. On the contrary, every exertion to diffuse knowledge by the gratuitous efforts of those who are not paid by the state, should be considered as a valuable contribution to the performance of a great national duty. The Education Board ought not to forget that it has higher duties than merely to control the few seminaries supported by Government. It should be regarded in the light of the State Agency for encouraging education throughout the country, and for turning the efforts of all parties to the highest account.—Then again, some plan should be devised with wisdom, and pursued with vigor, for introducing the most distinguished students of public or private Schools into the public service, with the view of gradually enlisting all the official influence of Government situations, as far as possible, in the cause of knowledge and improvement and civilization. There are great difficulties in the way; but this is only an additional reason for exertion; and as soon as we set about the work with a heart, we shall find that when the apathy, or indifference, or prejudice of the public authorities has once been overcome, one of the greatest obstacles to success will have been removed.

#### MEDICAL OFFICERS IN CIVIL EMPLOY.—

We understand a Memorial to the Governor General, is in circulation among the Civil Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons of this Presidency, the object of which is to secure the removal of one or two hardships under which the medical service labors. The causes of dissatisfaction are two; first, the reduction of sick leave from two years to six months, under pain of forfeiture of the civil appointment, if the more limited term be exceeded; and secondly, the entire deduction of civil allowances, if leave be obtained for only a single day. The first was inflicted by Lord Ellenborough in a moment of ill-temper; the civil medical officer, having, prior to 1844, enjoyed the privilege of a voyage to the Cape for two years on sick certificate, without the penalty of loss of civil appointment. We are sure the subject need only to be brought to the notice of the Governor General to be remedied. The present rules are so palpably unjust as to require no strength of argument to be employed in exposing them. It appears to be entirely repugnant to the spirit which actuates this Government, that the men whose office it is, to assuage or remove the ills of others, should be denied the enjoyment of a privilege, corresponding in all respects with that conferred on those around them. The civil servant, and the military officer in civil employ, can each, on procuring a sick certificate from their neighbour, the Civil Surgeon, obtain leave of absence from India for two years without the forfeiture of appointment, while the medical officer, whose health may equally require a change, for the same period, can absent himself only for six months, which is not sufficient to allow of his proceeding either to the Cape, or to New South Wales. This invidious difference of treatment is sufficient we think to affect the temper, and to discourage the efforts of the most patient and charitable of men. We do not hesitate to say, that medical men in civil employ have been most unfairly treated, and we should rejoice to see all ground for discontent removed, even before the Memorial under consideration can reach the Governor General.

With reference to the second cause of complaint, we think the Civil Surgeon should be

placed exactly on the same footing with his brother military officer in civil employ, that is, that he should be able to obtain a month's leave of absence in the year, when it is not decidedly inconvenient to the interests of the public service, without the forfeiture of any portion of his civil salary. As present a Civil Surgeon, who requires a single day's leave, is for that day reduced to his military pay, he is considered under military authority, and his pay bill for that day must be audited at the Military Auditor General's office! This is a most palpable anomaly. We cordially commend the prayer of the Memorial to the attention of the Governor General! I hope soon to have it on our power congratulate that portion of the medical staff which is in civil employ, on the redress of grievances of which, we think, they have so much just reason to complain.

**THE NEW RESUMPTION CODE.**—The following mysterious order, has just been issued by the Sudder Board of Revenue:—

"A Sudder Board of Revenue in the Resumption Laws of Procedure being under the consideration of the Government, I am directed by the Board of Revenue, with reference to the Circular Order of the 14th of March, 1846, No. 9, to inform you, that no new resumption suits are to be instituted for the present."

"21. You will understand therefore that application for permission to institute resumption suits is not to be made to the Board pending this order."

We had been led to think that the great business of the resumptions had long since been brought to a close. On the 4th of March, 1846, the Government of Bengal wrote thus to the Board of Revenue. "The Board are requested to direct the several Commissioners of Revenue to examine carefully in person all the (Resumption) cases on the file of each sub-division, and to put an immediate stop to the proceedings in every case in which there is not the very clearest possible prima facie evidence of the right of Government to assess; to require the Collectors to bring all the remaining cases to a decision, and clear their respective files before the close of the present year; and to prohibit them from instituting any further suits for the resumption of alienated revenue without the Board's previous sanction obtained in each case." Soon after the promulgation of these orders, the Special Deputy Collectors who had been appointed to investigate and decide those cases were sent to other departments; and the vocation of the Special Commissioners who received appeals from their decisions, ceased. We congratulated the country on the final close of these harassing, though necessary, proceedings. Under the operation of that Order, we naturally concluded that the suits remaining on the files could be but small in number, and insignificant in amount. On turning to the last Report of the Board of Revenue, sent in to Government, we find this impression fully confirmed. The number of new cases instituted with the Board's permission in 1847, was Twenty-five, and in the next year, with the exception of Bhagulpore, where many invalid metahs have lapsed by the death of the invalid soldiers—only Thirteen. The Board also state that at the close of 1848-49, only Twelve cases were pending throughout the whole of the country; that they had "put an almost total stop to resumption operations, and had recommended in their letter of June, that, with certain exceptions, no more suits for resumptions should be instituted." "To that letter," they add, "up to this date no reply has been received;" that is, after the lapse of nearly a twelvemonth.

The Government of Bengal has now announced its determination to prepare a new Code for the Runp of the Resumptions; and it will naturally be asked whether it is worth while

to take all this trouble in so very insignificant a matter. By a reference to the Report of the Board, we find that the 83 cases which had been decided on their merits in favour of Government in the preceding year, involved an estimated rental of 6585 Rs., just 80 Rupees of rent in each case. The Twelve cases which were pending at the end of 1848-49 at the time when the Board recommended that "no more suits for resumption should be instituted," if entirely decided in favour of Government,—which was not likely to be the case,—would, according to this calculation, produce an annual rent of 1000 Rs.! Why, this will scarcely give interest on the capital expended in bringing the cases to a decision. Would it not be much cheaper to burn all the papers, and quash all the suits? For the Government of Bengal thus to waste its little leisure, and its little strength in drawing up a new and elaborate enactment for these twelve cases, value 1000 Rs. a year, does seem to be a work of unexampled supererogation. If, after providing for the exigencies of the day, the Government of Bengal has any spare time which it does not know what to do with, surely there are other questions of infinitely greater importance and interest, to occupy its attention than a dozen two-penny half-penny Resumption cases. There is the construction of roads, canals, and bridges in Bengal and Behar, on which, according to the abowing of the Court of Directors themselves, there has been expended in nine successive years, the large and magnificent sum of *one-half per cent.* of the revenues of these two provinces. There is the great question of vernacular education; and the establishment of an alliance between the Schools and the public service. There is the great question of the law of restraint which craves the rural police, the neglect of which lies at the root of all the murders and disorders committed through the country. There is the necessity of enlisting in the cause of peace and order the hundred and seventy thousand village chowdars, who now commit at crime, even if they do not assist in committing it. These are questions fit for the consideration of statesmen; and every moment of leisure which the Government of Bengal can create ought to be secretly given to them; but while they are treated with neglect, we are told that a "fundamental alteration in the Resumption laws of procedure, is now under the consideration of Government!" The thing that we require is a fundamental alteration in the system of the Government of Bengal. For the management of these extensive provinces, in which five lakhs of Thirty-five millions of people, and a Government, endowed with the strength of a lumbered horse power steam engine, with all the latest improvements; instead of which, we have only a Twenty horse power engine, which has now been at work for sixteen years without having once been overhauled or repaired, and the engineers of which have not only been charged ten times in this period, but have had other duties thrust on them, so as effectually to prevent their looking at the different parts of the machine,—and then we wonder, *forewith*, that every screw is loose, and that it is scarcely possible to keep the steam up.

**MAJOR DURAND AND HIS FRIEND.**—Major Durand has addressed the following letter to the *Dowry Times*:

"Sir,—The *Dowry Times* is an admirable of the *Friend of India* of the 21st March 1881, upon the late Col. J. P. Campbell, has been brought to my notice."

the intention is the course of human affairs? Captain Cunningham, who was removed from his post for having been an official documents without the express sanction of the Public Authorities, was succeeded by Major Durand, for whose defence, in an article which appeared in the *Calcutta Review*, "the most extensive" and "the most unscrupulous" use was made of Official Documents, not unscrupulous use was made of the Government to which he was indebted for the express object of holding it up to public scorn and derision. One may not take a word and another may not even look over a hedge."

"It was parallel the *Friend of India* can find between the defence of a man in the *Calcutta Review*, after a long series of outrageous comments and gross abuse, and a work on the Indian History by the late Captain J. D. Cunningham, in which he would fain the midwifery of a lone satirical logician than the *Friend*. Even under the assumption, for which he himself has no warrant whatever, that documents, not furnished to the writer of the article in question, he forgoes, or finds it convenient to forget, that there is a wide difference between judicial inquiries and documents which pass in the Secret Department. In the one case publicity is very properly an object, and any one may make notes; in the other secrecy is an object, and its breach is a direct contravention of strict orders. No act of general administration; they cannot be concealed, and every person at the place is conversant with them; but that passes in the secret, the diplomatic department of the state only a limited number know, and that under the hand of secrecy."

"I enter this merely in order to point out that the *Friend of India*, even under its own assumption, and his own statements of the two cases, is just right of an essential distinction, but it is very far from being right in blaming the late Captain J. D. Cunningham, for, in reality, if the circumstances of the case were fully known, it would be fully known by the House Authorities, it may be doubted whether they would have blamed him to the extent they did, or at all. His conduct was a very full explanation of the mistake made by a very relative unacquainted with obtaining sanction from the House Authorities, and then bringing out the work, which, set by an unprejudiced mind that there was no intention on his part willingly to do the work, would have been a matter of Government, but it must always be borne in mind that the House Authorities, not informed by Captain Cunningham, from motives of delicacy towards his house, of the exact antecedents to the publication of the work, were not in a position to judge correctly that upon what was before them, and, naturally, in the absence of the explanation which Captain Cunningham might have given, laid his responsibility."

"The *Friend of India*, at the instigation of others I would believe, was foremost in breaking down the distinction between unscrupulous misstatements on my behalf; more than once it was in my power from his own writings to have put the scum on his right, but he was too good to do so. He drew their own inevitable conclusion as to the sources from whence the *Friend* derived his misstatements,--a line pronounced as to the use made by my countrymen of public documents, but respect to the position of some of them, set to the individuals themselves, and, in the end, result almost under superior and false statements which would appear. That one honest man, a man of a million, should use through the use of his countrymen, and should have the courage to step forward in my defence, must not doubt have been a very rare thing, and the *Friend* and his allies, but if there was a reborn of "sore and detestation" in consequence of that defence, the *Friend* may rest assured that, when it comes to putting the burden on the right shoulders, had he to his fellow-countrymen, and, in the end, what they entertained conclusion in the general character of the Indian Government, were careful not to confound that with that they pronounced almost universally, as exceptional cases.--Your's obediently,

"Bhow, Bhopal, April 6, 1861. H. M. Durrani."

The parallel appeared to us to be very naturally suggested by the current of events, and to require no subtlety of logic. Every one must be fully aware that the late Captain Cunningham was removed from his office for having made use in his History of documents which had come officially into his possession, as to wound the self love of those whose reputation was bound up in the triumphs of the Sutledge campaign. He was succeeded by an officer, in whose defence, in an article in the *Calcutta Review*, public documents had been made use of, which could only have come officially into the possession of the party who furnished them. Major Durand states, that we have no warrant for the assumption that these documents were thus supplied. It is true, that we may not have the warrant either of the writer who received them, or of the gentleman who supplied them, but the article itself bore internal and irrepressible evidence of having been drawn up on the strength of official documents. Nothing could be further from our intention than to cast any reflection either on Captain Cunningham, or on Major Durand,--that is, supposing him to have furnished the reviewer with the papers. We have always thought that the embargo taken at that time which Capt. Cunningham made of these public papers, was altogether superfluous. The *Friend*, in any, which they reflected on the

chiefs of that campaign, was of the very mildest character. Neither can we see any cause to censure the use which was made of the documents in the Commissioner's office at Moulemin, for Major Durand's defence. We simply call the passing notice of the reader to a parallel which seemed to us to illustrate the uncertainty of human affairs."

As to the distinction which the Major draws between documents in the diplomatic line and those in the judicial department, we must be fully aware, that the Proclamation of Lord Ellenborough of August 1843, in which he himself was private Secretary, was no exception. It runs thus:--

"Some misconception appearing to the Fuzer which Officers of both Documents and Papers which come officially, the Governor General in Council to testify, that such Documents came to be made public, or communicated without the previous consent of the Governor alone they belong."

This Notification was issued in consequence of Colonel Sleeman's having made use of some native depositions in a judicial case, in his defence against the calumnies which had been heaped on him in the public papers. It was under this order that Captain Cunningham was censured and removed, and it would have been equally applicable to the use of documents in the Moulemin article."

We are not all disposed to open again the question of Moulemin grievances during Major Durand's administration. If there was a single misstatement in any of our representations, we are heartily sorry for it. We made every effort to ascertain the truth, and should have taken any correction of our error, on his part, as an act of kindness. For our opinions on that occasion we and we alone are responsible. They were carefully and conscientiously formed, on evidence which appeared unquestionable, and a larger intercourse since that period with many who were at the settlement at the time, has given us no reason to qualify them. We believe that Major Durand was unexpectedly placed in a position of the greatest delicacy and difficulty, which required a more than ordinary exercise of prudence and wisdom. That prudence and wisdom did not seem to us to be apparent in the measures of his administration, the great error of which appeared to consist in this, that in a settlement in which there were two parties, inflamed with mutual animosities, the Commissioner was recognized as belonging to one of the m. Major Durand's proceedings regarding the Press were from first to last a great blunder, to use the mildest term. No wise man ever runs a tilt against the Press. The Editors of public journals have, we know, been subjected to the very undignified comparison of bugs, yet what *Cunningham* said of those gentlemen, in an old bedstead in a country inn, "that if they had been unanimous, he must have quitted it," will apply with equal truth to the Press. Major Durand had the singular infelicity of making the press unanimous, and they turned his bed of roses into a bed of thorns, and finally obliged him to quit it. We have always entertained a high regard for Major Durand, and it has not been extinguished by the part we felt it our duty to take in the Moulemin discussions. He was not equal to the exigencies of a position for which, indeed, few men in the service are qualified. A training in the Company's service, amidst institutions based on the principle of despotism, is not the best preparation for the management of a community, imbued with a large share of Anglo-Saxon turbulence, and some portion of Anglo-Saxon spirit. In more suspicious circumstances, we can readily connect Major Durand's administration to

be a real blessing, and we cordially wish him every success in the sphere of usefulness in which he is now placed."

**JUTEE PERSAUD'S TRIAL.**--Our article last week on the subject of this trial, has called forth notices from our three friends, the *Herbster*, the *Engländer* and the *Morning Chronicle*. The two last have given us the usual string of compliments: "Father John," "a special pleading of a state established fact," "an impudent questioning of the most established facts," "the most purpose of misleading the public to a false conclusion," the "hired servant of Government," &c. &c. &c., to which we reply with all befitting humility, *jo hocum*.

This last charge is, of course, from our worthy contemporary, the *Engländer*, and we are not altogether certain whether we may not consider it, in some measure, as the most flattering remark the editor could have made on our article; for we invariably find him resorting to this mode of expression whenever our arguments prove too tough and troublesome. Perhaps, some fine day when we have nothing better to do, we may draw a parallel between the hired servant of the *Engländer*, and the hired servant of the *Friend of India*, taking this distich for our motto:

I am his Highness's dog at Kew,  
Pray tell me, Sir, whose dog you are.  
Be that as it may; the coincidence which appears between our narrative of the history of the proceedings, and that published in the *Deli Gazette*, has furnished our contemporaries with an opportunity they have not failed to improve, of representing that we have been furnished with the same brief by Government, that the same instructions have been simultaneously given to both of us to defend its proceedings in this case, and that Government "has still some vestige of moral sense left, which makes it ashamed of the course it was led to adopt--and is anxious to escape from the public obloquy attending it." If the existence of "moral sense" in Government depends in any measure on the truth of this assumption, its case is nearly hopeless. Never were any ingenious conjectures so utterly without foundation; and never in the course of their editorial career have our three worthy contemporaries been more completely wide of the mark.

Here is the truth: From the time when this business of Jutee Persaud began to attract public attention, we have scrupulously abstained from either reading or writing on the subject, and have determined to wait the result of the trial before we made up our mind on its merits. But when we found it confidently asserted, that the criminal proceedings against Jutee Persaud were commenced by Government, after he had brought a civil suit for half a million sterling against it, and were intended to stifle enquiry, and get rid of his demand, we felt that if the charge was true, it must prove fatal to the character of Government, even though the foulest practices on the part of Jutee Persaud could be substantiated. This appeared to us to be one of the most important features of the case, so far as the reputation of the public authorities was concerned, and we were anxious to obtain the most correct information respecting it. We made enquiries in every direction, but without success; we wrote to several friends in the North-West with no better result. None of them could enlighten us on the one point to which our enquiries were directed--whether the proceedings of Government were commenced before the civil suit of Jutee Persaud, or not. At length, on the 3d of April, we ventured to put

the question to Mr. Gubbins, and asked him for specific intelligence on this question from the public documents at Agra, which were open to all. This is the only communication we have held on this subject with any official individual, in speech or writing, since the affair began. In making this request of Mr. Gubbins, we did not consider that we were tempting him to a breach of official confidence, or asking for that which he would incur censure in giving us. We required a simple abstract of papers which every one had access to. On the receipt of our letter, Mr. Gubbins drew up and sent us a brief history of the various stages of the prosecution, and from this we compiled our summary last week. It would appear that a copy of this paper was at the same time sent to the *Deli Gazette*, who published it in full, with some additions. Here then is the grand secret of the coincidence. The paper sent us by Mr. Gubbins was nothing more than a very succinct narrative of the proceedings, but it gave us precisely the information we had been seeking, viz. that the civil suit was commenced long after the criminal proceedings had been in progress. It showed us that informations had been laid against the great contractor for fraud in his dealings with Government, nearly two years ago, that they were submitted to the higher authorities, and by their orders duly investigated; that in the concurrent opinion of the Governor General, the Lieutenant Governor of Agra, and the Deputy Governor of Bengal, there appeared sufficient ground for sending the case up for trial to the Sessions Court. We learnt that these criminal proceedings were not intended to defeat the suit which Juteo Persaud had instituted in the Supreme Court, but that they were the natural and inevitable result of the charges which had been brought, and the evidence which had been adduced. Government is not in the habit of allowing any charge of fraud of the same credible character to remain uninvestigated, nor do we perceive that it stands in need of the smallest defence for directing a prosecution in this case, any more than it does for having ordered the legal examination of any other charge brought to its notice. The local authorities here are responsible to the Government at home, not for the exhibition of magnanimity to rapacious contractors, but for the vigilant protection of the public interests, and they would have been reminded of this duty in no very homely terms, if they had allowed such heavy accusations to remain unvisited. The only point on which any blame could possibly have attached to Government, was that of having put the process of the criminal Courts in operation to avoid the payment of its just debts. It was simply to this charge that the narrative we gave last week had reference. Its accuracy has not been in the smallest degree impugned, and it triumphantly disposes of that charge.

The result of the trial has fully confirmed the remark which we made during the black Act discussions last year, that Government has always a greater chance of being defeated than of becoming victorious in its own Courts. Whether it be that the Judges are afraid of being suspected of a leaning to their own masters, or that they are prepossessed against the more powerful party, it is a fact established by long experience, that Government generally loses worst in the Courts, in which, from the nature of their constitution, the Judges are its own servants. It has a greater chance of success, we think, in the Supreme Court, with its present Judges, than in the country Courts. There are, doubtless, innumerable instances

in the Company's Judges, and countless defects in the Courts, but this credit, at least, is due to the Judges, that they have shown no disposition to pervert justice by truckling to the powers that be. Nor have they lost the confidence of Government by their independence. The Anti-black Act memorial told us some truths and some truisms, but it was sadly wide of the mark, when it charged the Company's Judges with wanting even the shadow of judicial independence. In the first trial since that Memorial was issued, in which Government had a deep personal interest, conducted by a Government agent, and investigated by a Government jury, the Government was defeated. This broad and impossible to controvert. The fact stated that "the most flagrant on which has disgraced the East India Company's Government for years past, has terminated in the utter discomfiture of the prosecutor." Even if this representation of the case were as true, as it is groundless, still the more flagrant the oppression is represented to be, the more illustrious does the independence of the Judges who defeated it, appear. In the present case, the spirit of independence pervaded even the very clerks in Government employ who were placed on the Jury. The result of the trial is the noblest vindication of the independence of the country Courts which could have been furnished.

**THE EXAMINATION OF CADETS.**—The Court of Directors, following the example of the Commander-in-Chief in England, have resolved that this portion of their embryo officers, who have not received the advantages of an Addiscombe education, shall pass an examination before they receive their commissions. The subjects and mode of examination will be found among our Selections, and we would ask the careful attention of our military readers to it. The document is rather a remarkable one, and must have cost the composer no little study and trouble. The problem for the solution of the Court was to discover how to reconcile the necessity of an examination, with the least possible interference with their own patronage in the shape of direct appointments. It must be confessed that the *via media* has been very skillfully, and, for the Cadets, very pleasantly attained. They need not dread having recondite problems presented for their annoyance, or pages of unknown characters to be transformed into English. Nothing of the kind; all is simple and smooth, and their commissions are quite safe, unless they are the veriest dolt. They are required, first, to possess a decent knowledge of the complex mysteries of proportion, and vulgar and decimal fractions, and to have read the three first books of Euclid. The old horse of our school boy days, "reduction," is omitted, though it might be useful for commissariat purposes, in the case of a great contractor's bills. They are to display a knowledge of Latin, about equal to that possessed by the lowest farm at Eton, and as much of French as they can learn from the erudite "Telemachus" and "Charles the Twelfth." If they prefer it, which of course they will not, they may be examined in the *Bagh-o-Bahar*, "cribs" being unlimited. The selection for historical studies also shows much discrimination. It would have been too bad to send boys just out of school to Thirlwall or Grote, Arnold or Niebuhr, so they are to learn the history of Greece and Rome from Kaishley. The exquisite narrative of Macaulay or Hume, would be too difficult, so English history is to be acquired from the various pages of Fleet.

Neither are they expected to emulate Keith Johnston in geographical knowledge; their mild examiners will only require them to know the names of the European Capitals, and of the principal cities in Hindustan, all of which they may acquire from that interesting publication "Woodbridge's Grammar of Geography"; or, if they like to labor, from "Chambers's Educational Course" where they will find Cashmere set down as one of the principal cities of India. Their religious knowledge is also carefully provided for; the order continues as follows:—

"If the candidate has been confirmed as a member of the church of England, he will be required to make a declaration to that effect. If not so confirmed, or if not a member of the church of England, he will be required to produce a certificate from a minister stating that he has been well instructed in the principles of the religion in which he has been brought up."

What is a dissenting Minister? According to the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, he may be "a Socinian, denying the Divinity of our Lord, and perhaps the inspiration of scriptures, or a follower of Johanna Southcote, or of the prophet Brothers, or a Fifth Monarchy man, or a Rantier, or a bookseller, or a printer, or a school master." Is it to be believed that the Court of Directors have actually published to the world that a certificate of religious instruction, from such a *thing*, will be considered at the India House, as complete a qualification for their military service in India, as a certificate from one whom the Bishop designates "a priest in holy orders, with the authority of a Divine Commission, derived through successive consecrations and ordinations from the apostolic ages?" Again; is a *Habbi* a minister; and if not, what will the Jews do? Are the Directors aware that there is more than one Jew officer in the army, that among their Jewish officers is Rothschild's nephew, and that they have always distinguished themselves as much as other Christian fellow soldiers? We should, we confess, like to see the "Chief Rabbi's certificate."

It is not any "write about this order with gravity, but seriously speaking, it appears not only useless but in some measure unjust. It is useless, because the scale of knowledge required is scarcely equal to that of a second class student at the Hindoo College, and much inferior even to the examination required of Queen's officers. It is unjust, because it is to be applied to Cadets abroad, that is, in India, and they will find no small difficulty in obtaining certificates of moral conduct and religious training, from those who have educated them, in England, for two years.

**THE SLOLEY-CUT-THORNTON CASE.**—The Supreme Court pronounced sentence upon Messrs. Sloley and Thornton on Friday, the 26th April. Mr. Sloley was condemned to four months' imprisonment, and a fine of a thousand rupees, and Thornton to six months' imprisonment without any pecuniary mulct. It is also stated that the French Court at Chandernagore has condemned Sloley, per contumace, to six years' imprisonment with hard labour, and a fine of Fifty thousand Rupees. Mr. Sloley will take exceedingly good care, we imagine, how he places himself again within the jurisdiction of the French authorities, and it was probably under the supposition that the sentence would be nominal, that it was made so severe. The honour of la grande Nation is saved, and Mr. Sloley is none the worse. On the whole, it appears to have been very unfortunate. That his conduct in committing an act liable to create a misunderstanding between two nations was exceedingly reprehensible, there can be no dispute, but it could hardly be called criminal. He had a claim on Mr. Armstrong for a consi-



double sum, or at least he considered that he had, and a somewhat undue degree of eagerness to obtain payment is rather a venial crime in Calcutta. We do not excuse the assault on an elderly and helpless man, but, as it appears, the assault would have been considered justifiable, had it taken place on English territory. The act was legally inexcusable, but, morally, it was a simple assault, and nothing more. Mr. Slaney goes to prison, as far as we can see, without any heavy stain upon his moral character. We wish we could say as much of Thornton, but until certain discrepancies in his evidence in the first and second cases are reconciled, we cannot think that he has received even severe justice.

**DR. O'CALLAGHAN'S NEW PERIODICAL.**—We call the attention of our readers, especially such of them as belong to the Medical Service, to a prospectus which will be found among our Salesmen, of a new Literary and Scientific Quarterly publication. The want of such a work, in which the labours of the many medical and scientific men whom India possesses, and the results of their labours, may be embodied, has long been felt. The journal of the Asiatic Society, besides being more exclusively appropriated to Oriental literature, exhibits few signs of the learning and spirit which adorned that body when Jones, Colobrooke, Prinsep, and others regularly contributed to its Transactions. Moreover, even were its ancient tone again revived, it would still be wanting in many of the qualifications necessary to make it something more than a record of disconnected facts, and learned opinions. The *Calcutta Review* is rather historical than scientific; and the Medical Journal conducted by Dr. Edlin, expired with its unfortunate Editor. There is ample field for a work such as Dr. O'Callaghan has projected, and if his views are carried out with the energy which characterizes him, he may command success, instead of requesting support. He has also adopted the wise resolution of paying for able contributions when the circulation of the journal will allow him. We are sorry to perceive, however, that he has fallen into the error of believing that periodical can be kept up by enthusiasm alone. Religious journals of this kind have sometimes succeeded, because the principle has too strong a vitality to expire with the first few efforts; but he may rely upon it, that no secular periodical ever was, or will be, successful, unless its conductors hope for an ultimate pecuniary result for their labours. We advise Dr. O'Callaghan to modify his resolution, and obtain as much profit as he can from his own exertions, and the public will be confident that he will give them the best material in his power to collect. As soon as a periodical becomes popular, there will be no lack of support, either intellectual or pecuniary. There is scarcely a science to which particular individuals in India could not give large additions, and whole branches of information lie still untouched. We wish Dr. O'Callaghan every success, and perhaps not the less, because we can see that a little composition will do our sole Indian Review, an infinity of good.

**NATIVE NEWSPAPERS AND NATIVE PRESSES.**—One of the Native papers in Calcutta has published a fuller and more correct statement, regarding Native periodical literature and the Native Press, than that which was furnished by the Rev. J. Long. This important document we have extracted from the *Englishman*, and placed among our selections.

It is a statement which would appear that

no fewer than fifty-five weekly, bi-monthly, and monthly periodical publications, have been published, and have been discontinued, since the first Native paper was issued from the Serampore Press, on the 21st of May, 1818. It would also appear that there are at present two daily papers; two tri-weekly; four half-weekly; seven weekly; one bi-monthly, and five monthly publications now issued; making in the whole, twenty-one. For many years after the establishment of Native papers in Bengal, they exhibited little signs of progression, and a newspaper resembled an exotic which was not destined to take root in the uncongenial soil of Bengal. It appeared as if the people of this province were not destined to be brought under the influence of a periodical press. But more progress appears to have been made in the last seven years, than in the preceding twenty-six. Not only have the number of papers been multiplied, but their range of circulation has been greatly augmented. The educated natives begin to feel a newspaper a "want" and the papers themselves have begun to exert a more extensive influence on the public mind. From the fresh impulse which appears now to have been given to the native press, we are justified in concluding that it will be both permanent and progressive. It is, moreover, worthy of especial remark, that these papers in the native language have been multiplied apparently in proportion to the number of students who have received an English education. It might naturally have been expected that after an acquaintance with English had become so exceedingly common in Calcutta, and the actor studying it in that city and its vicinity had been increased in so astonishing a degree, English newspapers, whether conducted by European or Native editors, have received the highest encouragement the educated Natives. Yet the very reverse is the case. We have one solitary newspaper in the English language, published in Calcutta by a Native gentleman, against Twenty-one journals in the vernacular language. This fact affords matter for deep reflection. It appears to indicate the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of substituting the use and influence of a foreign tongue, for the indigenous language of the country. The student who has obtained education in the English language, in his School or College, receives his subsequent impressions through the medium of the vernacular journals. And this may easily be accounted for. Nine-tenths of those whose education has been completed in the Colleges, find it far more easy to understand and to appreciate papers in their own language than in a foreign one.

The document to which we have alluded also informs us that there are at the present time no fewer than fifty vernacular presses in the town and country, employed both in printing periodical journals, and also in supplying the native community with books in their own language. If we suppose only a single work to issue from them in the year, we shall have five hundred works published in the course of ten years, and disseminated through the country. This fertility of the native press seems to keep pace with the increase of English education, and the increased activity of the native mind, and it appears to point out the necessity of making this medium of communication, which becomes elastic in proportion as we attempt to depress it—the means of education to the people in general. Notwithstanding all the obstructions of a foreign tongue, the Bengalee language is still the most powerful source of mental influence in Bengal, and it is a very

poor argument against the use of it for communicating sound and valuable knowledge to the masses, that it is not yet fitted to represent the lofty conceptions of Milton and Shakespeare.

**MR. CHARLES HOGG.**—We publish with great pleasure, the following unanimous and very complimentary acknowledgment of Mr. Hogg's services by the Directors of the Bank of Bengal. Never was a testimonial more amply deserved, or more honorably bestowed. Mr. Hogg has conducted Bank safely through a crisis of unexampled difficulty, and, amidst the wreck of so many commercial establishments, the Proprietors have had the gratification to find that, owing his firm and judicious management, the institution in which they are so deeply interested, has been preserved from the smallest loss. We can cordially join in hoping that some other sphere of usefulness will be opened to Mr. Hogg on his retirement to England, and that he will have an opportunity of giving others the benefits of those talents from which we have so largely profited.

On the occasion of Mr. Hogg's vacating the appointment of Secretary and Treasurer to the Bank of Bengal, the Directors desire to record the opinion they entertain of the value of the service, he has so long and so diligently rendered to the Institution. During Mr. Hogg's tenure of office it has fallen to his lot to conduct the executive management of the Bank through a crisis of commercial distress which the effects are still bearing heavily on this community, and from which a banking establishment might reasonably have been expected to suffer, even though his affairs were managed with more than ordinary prudence.

Yet such has been Mr. Hogg's ability and energy aided by a sound practical knowledge of the law, that in no instance has the Bank suffered any loss from the extensive engagements in which it has been interested; in no instance has its title to property been disputed, and in no instance has it been involved in litigation from transactions occurring in the ordinary course of business under Mr. Hogg's control.

In the internal economy of the Bank, Mr. Hogg has organised a system of arrangement and operation that entitles the Directors to claim for the Institution the character of the best ordered public office in Calcutta.

On Mr. Hogg's quitting a sphere of action for which he has proved himself so eminently qualified, the Directors record with sincerity their regret at the loss of an officer who has acted cordially for the best interests of the Institution, and on behalf of the Proprietors and for themselves they tender him their warm thanks for the zeal and talent with which he has for the last four years conducted the affairs of this important public Bank.

(Signed) J. A. DORR.

J. J. HARVEY.

H. WALKER.

J. S. J. MACINTYRE.

WM. MCADAM STEWART.

W. W. KETTLEWELL.

D. JARDINE.

A. E. BRADDOCK.

JOHN COWIE.

Bank of Bengal, 21st April, 1861.

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the Sixth part of the *INDIAN JOURNAL OF ARTS, SCIENCES, AND MANUFACTURES.*

# WEEKLY EPIPTOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24.

—The trial of Messrs. Slaney and Thornton, in the Supreme Court, for the abduction of Mr. Arrabrown from Chandernagore, terminated at a late hour on Wednesday, the 23d April. The points against them were five in number; the first four referred to the charge of complicity to assault, and the last of having assisted the plaintiff. The Jury brought in the accused guilty of the first four counts, and acquitted them on the fifth. Judgment will be pronounced to-morrow.





















**NEW ORIENTAL LIFE INSURANCE  
COMPANY.**

**Capital**—£500 Shareholders' Report 1,000 each.  
**Directors**—A. Chalmers, J. Jenkins, R. S. Thomann  
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**Treasurer**—Bank of Bengal.  
**COMMISSIONERS**—Schedules and Tables of rates of  
**Commissions**, may be had on application to the Secretary  
and Agent, who will be happy to undertake the management  
of the business. The rates of Commission are fixed by the  
policy, free of commission, provided he is kept in funds.  
The New Oriental Life Insurance Company continue  
to grant to holders of Policies in the seven years class the  
same rate of interest as the London Assurance Company, from  
the date of the Policy, a new one for the like amount for  
further term of years, or for life, on surrender of the original  
Policy, and to return one quarter of the profits in rateable divi-  
dend to subscribers of premium on Policies of any class  
who have likewise subscribed for the same.  
It is issued a period of three years from Jan. 1848

date of the Policy, a new one for the like amount for further term of years, or for life, on surrender of the original Policy.

ginal Policy without requiring fresh certificates of health and to return one quarter of the profits in ratable dividend to contributors of premium on Policies of any class who are likewise shareholders.

Under the new policy, after 15 years from Let Nov., 1848, the return will be 10 per cent. on all premiums paid by any Insurer on any policy, and a similar bonus will therefore be continued, should the operations of the Society warrant the same.

Parcels insured for the whole term of life, on becoming permanent residents in Great Britain will be entitled to a deduction of 20 per cent. on the premium which their policies bear, provided they have already paid five years' premium.

premium at Annual Rate, such reduction to include all other returns.

The Policies of the New Oriental Life Insurance Company, which permit Residence in any part of the World,—do not require proof of interest—may be transferred by simple endorsement and registry—and are **INDISPUTABLE**, except on the ground of fraud.

During the last eight years the Company has paid 60 Policies on lapsed lives to the amount of Co.'s Rs. 21,15,630 and holds a Reserve Fund duly invested equal to one and a half year's losses on the average of a series of years or the whole amount of Policies existing.

**W. F. FERGUSON,**  
*Secretary and Agent*

Calcutta, November, 1850.

**D. TODD AND JAMES'S** esteemed **WIFE** for Sal

Brown Sherry, ... ..	Co.'s Rs. 26 per dozen.
Pale Sherry, ... ..	28 24
Port Wine, ... ..	22 22
Light Bordeaux Claret, ... ..	18 18

*Calcutta, 2d November, 1848.*

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For List of Prices—drawings and further particulars  
Apply to the OVERSEER,  
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UNIVERSAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.  
Established in London and Calcutta, 1834.

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The principle adopted by the Universal Life Assurance Society of an annual Valuation of Assets and Liabilities and a division of three-fourths of the Profits among its

Assured is admitted to offer great advantages, especially

Assured is admitted to offer great advantages, especially to those parties who may wish to appropriate their proportion of profit to the reduction of future premiums.

The following table will show the result of the last division of Profits as declared on the 8th May, 1850, which is equivalent to 42½ per Cent. on the current Annual Premiums:

## una of Policies entitled to participation, and on which P

Age when Policy was issued.	Date of Policy.	Sum Assured.	Original Premium.	Reduction.	Reduced Annual Premium.
		Co.'s Rs.	Co.'s Rs.	Co.'s Rs.	Co.'s Rs.
20	On or	10,000	420	178 8	241

30	before	10,000	480	294 0	257 20
40	9th	10,000	500	250 12	225 00

30	before	10,000	480	204 0	276
40	9th	10,000	560	250 12	330
50	May	10,000	740	314 8	426
60	1845.	10,000	1080	437 12	592

Separate tables for assurance without participation profits have been adopted for whole life, at reduced rates for such persons as may prefer a lower rate of premium participation in the general profits.

The tables, blank forms, and other particulars required to enable persons to effect assurance may be had on application to the Agents.

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Agents and Secretaries

Calcutta, March, 1851.



# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

No. 863. Vol. XVII.]

SERAPPORE: THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1861.

{ Price 2 Cts. Rs. monthly or 20  
Rs. yearly if paid in advance.

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 26th of the ensuing Month of May for the departure of the next Summer mail, with a Mail for India—No. 10, accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be on Thursday, the 16th day of May, and that the first of the Overland Mail will be despatched from this Office, on Wednesday, the 14th Idem.

J. R. BURTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, 26th April, 1861.

## NOTICE.

THE enclosed copy of a Notice, issued by the London General Post Office, is published in general information.

J. R. BURTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Calcutta, Gen. Post Office, 26th April, 1861.

**INSTRUCTIONS No. 4, 1851.**  
By Command of the Post Master General.  
Notice to the Public and Instructions to all Post Masters, Sub-Post Masters and letter receivers, Parliamentary Proceedings to India and Hong-Kong, via Southampton, Gen. Post Office, 26th April, 1861.

On and after the 1st March next, printed Votes, and Proceedings of the Imperial Parliament and of the Colonies, may be transmitted by the Post between the United Kingdom and the East Indies or Hong-Kong, via Southampton, subject, however, to all the existing regulations and restrictions, at the following reduced rates of Postage, viz.

For any weight not exceeding four ounces, ... 1d  
Do. exceeding four ounces, ... 2d  
Do. and not exceeding eight ounces, ... 3d  
Do. exceeding eight ounces, ... 4d  
Do. and not exceeding twelve ounces, ... 5d  
Do. exceeding twelve ounces, ... 6d  
Do. and not exceeding sixteen ounces, ... 7d  
Do. exceeding sixteen ounces, ... 8d  
and so on in proportion, until the weight of sixteen ounces and an additional rate of one Penny is being understood, that any letter weight than four ounces, shall be charged as four ounces.

This postage, which is entirely British Postage, and does not include the rate chargeable for conveyance in India, must in all cases, be paid in advance.

(True Copy.)

J. R. BURTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Mail of the 24th March arrived in Calcutta on the evening of Thursday, the 1st May, by the Bombay Express. Its contents are of a singularly uninteresting character. The great debate on the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill had dragged on for seven nights, to the almost total obstruction of other business. The Bill was supported in debate by Lord John Russell, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Goulburn, Mr. Wigram, (the new member for the University of Cambridge) Lord Ashley, Lord Palmerston, Mr. Newdegate and Mr. H. Drummond. The latter gentleman in the debate on the 20th March, uttered a fierce attack upon the practices of the Roman Catholics, and alluded in terms more intelligible than courteous to the nunneries of which so many have lately sprung up in England. "The nunneries were either prisons or brothels," honorable members might take their choice of the expression." As might have been expected, the Irish members yelled and shouted, and turned the House for a moment into a bazaar. The Speaker, however, succeeded in restoring order, and declared that Mr. Drummond had not gone beyond the privileges of free debate. Mr. Drummond then continued, and in the course of his speech said that Englishmen detested any thing like imposture; "they scorn those who are importing orders of blinking statues, bleeding pictures, glorifying blood, and drops of the Virgin Mary's milk." The whole body of the Roman Catholic members rose in anger, and they could not prevent the Speaker from depriving Mr. Drummond of the right of speech, contested them-

selves with impairing the effect of his address by braying and cock-crowing. The whole scene is said to have resembled more the American House of Representatives, than the English House of Commons. The principal speakers against the Bill were Sir James Graham, Mr. Cardwell, Mr. Hume, Mr. Roebuck, the Liberal party generally, and of course, all the Irish and Roman Catholic members. The Bill itself, it is understood, must be materially modified, and the great mistake which was committed in extending it to Ireland, repaired. Sir George Grey, however, stated that the Government had determined to include Ireland, and to render the assumption of territorial titles by the Scotch episcopalian Bishops, illegal. It is reported, moreover, that it stands a strong chance of being rejected or rendered inoperative in Committee, in which case a dissolution will be inevitable. Should the question go to the country, the provisions of the Bill will, we fear, be rendered stringent to an undue degree, but present there appears to be on all sides a fixed determination not to allow of any vindictive or persecuting measures, or any violation of the rights of conscience.

The case of Miss Talbot, a relative of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who, it is alleged, has been entangled into a convent with the view of obtaining her fortune, amounting to £50,000, has been brought before the House of Commons, and has added no little acerbity to the debate, already sufficiently pungent. We think, individually, that there is no danger of the Bill being rejected, as the great majority of the House, though not of the talking portion of it, are decidedly in favour of its enactment. The Navy Estimates have been passed with but slight opposition, and a debate on Ceylon affairs "staved off" by the Ministry. Lord Torrington has himself called, in his place in the Upper House, for the report of the Committee, and declared his readiness to answer in person every charge brought against him. We confess we are unable to see what possible utility there can be in prolonging a discussion, which ceased to be of importance from the day of Lord Torrington's departure from the Island. It cannot damage the Colonial Office more than has already been done, and a formal Parliamentary impeachment is far too cumbersome a process to be put in action, except upon much more important occasions. A more unpleasant event for the Ministry was the defeat on the 11th, on the question of the Woods and Forests. Lord Duncan moved a resolution, that the revenues of the Crown lands should be brought under the immediate control of Parliament, instead of being entrusted to three Commissioners responsible only to the Treasury. The gross rental of those domains amounts to £250,000 a year, but the expenses swallow up £192,000, or more than Fifty per Cent. The motion was carried against the Government by 120 to 110, leaving the Ministers in a minority of one. The Great Debate has apparently absorbed all other topics of interest, for with the exception of a report that the Crystal Palace leaks, there is no further home intelligence which can be of any interest to Indian readers. The leaking will, however, be soon obviated, and the immense building is already beginning to fill. The number of packages which had arrived from foreign countries was 2908, from the colonies 441, and from the towns and

counties of Great Britain, 2188. The United States have sent in one thousand tons of packages; the hydraulic press used in elevating the tubes of the Britannia Bridge, will also be one of the articles exhibited. In order to finish the works by the 1st May 9000 hands will be put on; but even then the Exhibition will scarcely be complete, as some countries are still very much behind hand. We must not forget the announcement of Lord John Russell, that the Cape Colony would be obliged to pay for its own wars. This declaration has been most severely and justly attacked by the whole Press, both conservative and liberal. It is argued, and with great justice, that the Colonists were not consulted in carrying out the policy which has produced these wars, and that if left to their own unfettered action, they would soon terminate the possibility of Kaffir invasions.

The news from the Continent is absolutely nil. The Hall of meeting of the Upper Chamber at Berlin, has been destroyed by fire, but the flames were fortunately checked, before they had extended to the noble buildings on each side of the hall. The only news from Rome, consists of an extract from the *Roman Gazette* of the 22nd January 1848, which was to the effect that all the subscriptions then raising for a new Catholic Church in London, should be paid to "His Eminence the Most Rev. the Vicar Apostolic, now Archbishop of Westminster, 35, Golden Square." The notification is a singular one, but it calls the Archbishop also Vicar Apostolic although he had been at one and the same time Bishop and Vicar of his own Diocese.

We learn from the United States, that new discoveries of gold have been made in California near the mouth of the Klamath river. The sands at this point are said to be mixed with gold to an almost incredible extent. The Secretary to the Pacific Mining Company declares that the sands will yield a sum too preposterous for belief, and General Wilson says that thousands of men will not exhaust the gold in thousands of years.

**THE LEGISLATIVE MEMBER AND THE COUNCIL OF EDUCATION.**—The *Harlow* of last Saturday week has the following observation on Mr. Charles Hay Cameron, "Mr. Cameron always exhibited an intense interest in his residence in Bengal in all matters relating in any way to the cause of Native Education. Mr. Cameron's services as President of the Council of Education ought never to be forgotten. He was in every way fitted for his post. His reign was equally vigorous and peaceful."

There can be little doubt that this eulogium was richly earned by Mr. Cameron who he occupied the important and influential office of President of the Board, and that the whole educational staff were proud and happy to serve under him. But in the enthusiasm of his gratitude to Mr. Cameron, the *Harlow* appears to have overlooked the fact, that however he might be fitted for the post of President of the Council of Education, that post was not so well fitted to the Legislative Member of Council. The office to which he was appointed in India, and for which he received £10,000 a year, was that of preparing laws for the British empire in India, and it was not within his pro-

vince to undertake the administration of a large educational establishment. The "intense interest" which the editor so much applauds, might have been more appropriately concentrated on the duties which were exclusively entrusted to him. We consider it the especial prerogative of the Legislative member of Council, during the whole tenure of his office, to study the institutions which our laws have established, to lay himself out for acquiring all the information in his power, from all parties, relative to their result on the welfare of the country, to ascertain their deficiencies and anomalies, and thus to prepare himself for amending and improving them. His duty is not simply to throw into a legal form any new enactments which may be required by time and the progress of circumstances, but to correct the errors of past legislation, and to consolidate the laws of different periods, and thus to impart simplicity and consistency to our code. We venture to assert that these duties are of so varied and arduous a nature as to demand nearly the whole time and attention of the officer to whom they are entrusted, nor do we see how any one can do full justice to them, if he enjoys leisure for an "intense interest" in the cause of education, or for undertaking the chief superintendence of an extensive system of public instruction. The time and the labor bestowed on education, must, we fear, be withdrawn from the more imperative and more sacred duties of legislation. If Acts are detained in their progress for months, and if great legislative questions are indefinitely postponed, it does not appear to us to afford any satisfactory reply, that the legislative member has been most diligently employed in fostering the cause of education. We think it would be highly conducive to the interests of society if he were to move about the country, in the intervals of legislative action, visiting one tribunal after another, consulting the officers in the civil, criminal, and fiscal Courts on the result of our laws, and collecting a fund of knowledge and experience, from personal observation, to be hereafter turned to account at the Council Board. The duties of the Council of Education, are unquestionably far more agreeable and fascinating, and afford larger scope for the benevolent feelings of the mind than the dry and uninteresting details of jurisprudence, and they have always therefore a tendency to absorb the attention. It is on this ground that the duties of these two offices appear to us to be mutually incompatible, and we much question the propriety of allowing any Legislative member of Council to undertake those educational engagements, which must necessarily contract the time devoted to his own specific and exclusive duties. In the next arrangement which may be made for the Government of India in 1853, this matter will require a distinct enquiry, and the office of legislative member of Council, and that of President of the Council of Education must be distinctly divorced. The magnificent allowance attached to the legislative office in the Council ought to purchase for the public interests, not divided attachments, or languid and occasional efforts, but the whole energies of the whole man.

#### RAILWAY FROM SUZ TO ALEXANDRIA.—

##### EARLY COMMUNICATIONS THROUGH EGYPT.

We are happy to learn by the last mail that the visit of Mr. Stephenson, the eminent Civil Engineer, to Egypt, has resulted in his recommending a line of Rail from Alexandria to Cairo; and that Abbas Pasha has resolved immediately to commence the construction of it. This must of course be followed at no distant period by ano-

ther from Cairo to Suez, by which the passage through Egypt will be reduced to a single day. A line of electric telegraph will doubtless be laid out at the same time, in conjunction with the Egyptian Rail, and information of the arrival of the Steamer at Suez will be instantaneously communicated to Alexandria, and vice versa. The distance between Southampton and India will then be shortened at least two days. Thus, by the irresistible progress of events, fresh facilities are constantly created for expediting communications between the different parts of the globe. Notwithstanding the occasional opposition of circumstances, and the resistance of prejudices, the course of improvement appears to move on by some invisible but irresistible impulse. We shall soon be found growling if the monthly mail is protracted beyond Thirty days, and that within thirty years of the time when a large bonus was offered to the individual who should convey the first mail by steam to Calcutta in Seventy days. At this fresh stage of progression which the mail announces, it may not be uninteresting briefly to glance at the efforts which were made to establish a communication between England and India, by way of Egypt, before the invention of sea steamers.

The first attempt of this nature appears to have been made by one of the greatest and most illustrious men ever placed at the head of affairs in India, Warren Hastings. It was some time in 1774 that he opened a negotiation with the Bays of Egypt, and obtained their consent to a free intercourse. Of this public spirited effort he reaped the full benefit in 1778. It was through this channel that he obtained intelligence of the declaration of war between England and France, and received instructions from the public authorities to reduce Pondicherry, and the other French settlements in India. He was thus enabled to attack and to capture them before they were duly prepared; and the advantage of this early and decisive proceeding was soon made apparent, when we were attacked by Hyder Ali, and the combined native powers of India in southern India. By the unexpected occupation of Pondicherry, they were deprived of a valuable depot of men, arms, and ammunition in the centre of the seat of war, and of the important assistance which the French would otherwise have afforded them. Hastings laboured to render this channel of communication also subservient to the promotion of commerce, but this was supposed to interfere with the interests of the East India Company; and, strange to say, an Act of Parliament was obtained, prohibiting English subjects from exporting the produce of India by way of Suez, after the 5th of July 1782. Perhaps it may be worth the while of the Peninsula Company to enquire whether this Act has ever been repealed or not.

It was in connection with Hastings's efforts in 1774, that Mr. Baldwin, the only English merchant at Cairo, was appointed in 1778, the Agent of the East India Company for the purpose of forwarding their packets to and from India. In 1780, Mr. Whitcomb was despatched from England to Madras, with the orders of the Directors for the restoration of Lord Pigot; he came out through Egypt, and actually reached Madras in *eighty-nine* days. But after this time, the Court of Directors seem to have discontinued the use of this route, though it was employed by private individuals, more especially by Mr. Benfield,—the notorious Paul Benfield, we suppose—who "was at considerable trouble and expense in obtaining the earliest overland intelligence on the Coromandel Coast." He received

the first intimation of the signing of the preliminaries of peace between France and England, in the beginning of 1788, and gave information of it to Lord Macartney. His Lordship was thus enabled to prevail on Bussy to consent to a cessation of hostilities till the arrival of official despatches from Europe. It is a lamentable fact, that two actions were fought by land, and one engagement at sea, after the treaty of peace had been signed, in which eighty officers and upwards of 2000 men are said to have been killed and wounded.

The Court of Directors subsequently received more than one application for the establishment of a regular communication by way of Egypt with India—but the time was not come, which has changed the face of the world, though discovered, was unemployed. Colonel Capper in his "Observations on the passage to India," says, "nothing except the fear of incurring a very heavy expense can prevent or retard the execution of a plan founded on both policy and humanity. To have a constant succession of intelligence established, almost as regular as our posts at home, would be but a trifling if any, expense; would afford general satisfaction to every person concerned in Indian affairs; and at the same time, by productive of innumerable advantages both to the Government and the East India Company." Little could the Colonel have supposed that a communication would eventually be established far more regular than any post of which he had any idea; but that the expense, which he deemed so trifling, would not fall short of £170,000 a year. In 1785, Captain Taylor, of the Bombay Establishment, laid before the Court of Directors, the plan of a communication between Great Britain and the East Indies, by way of Suez, in which he proposed that the packets from England should be sent to Messina, either by the post or by a special messenger; and that two or more packet boats should be established in the Mediterranean, to sail to and from Messina and Alexandria. On the arrival of the mails at Alexandria, the Consul General was to enquire that to be forwarded instantly by Arab messengers to Suez. At Suez, country boats were to be constantly stationed, ready to take charge of the despatches and convey them to Mecca, where two Company's cruizers were to be waiting, one to sail for Bombay, the other for Cannanore on the Coast of Malabar. It was calculated that the Mail would thus reach Bombay from London in Fifty days and twenty hours, and Cannanore in about the same time, or a little earlier. The post from Cannanore to Madras was calculated at seven days, and that to Calcutta at twenty-two. According to Captain Taylor's calculation, therefore, the London Mail might be expected to reach,

	days	hours
Bombay, by ... ..	50	20
Madras, " " " " " "	57	20
Calcutta, " " " " " "	73	20

We will only farther remark, that at this period, namely in 1785, the Bombay post was Twenty-six days in reaching Madras, and Thirty-six in its progress to Calcutta!

#### REFUSAL OF A COMMISSIONER OF INDIA ENQUIRY.

By the last Mail we have had the pleasure of receiving from Mr. Sullivan, a copy of a letter which he has addressed Lord John Russell, relative to the refusal of any Select Committee on the affairs of India. It is very short and pithy, and very much to the purpose, and we have made room for it in this number, though to the exclusion of other matter. The President had given us his reason for refusing all enquiry

that it was a great, though a common, error to suppose that the affairs of India were now administered under a Charter. "There was," said he, "a Charter of Incorporation, but all the privileges which the old Charter gave had been done away with, and the affairs of India were now administered under an Act of Parliament." This was partly correct, and partly fallacious. The exclusive right to trade in the East rested in the Company must not be confounded with its Charter. Mr. Dundas, the greatest Minister for India we have ever had, when bringing forward his arrangements for the Government of India in 1793, stated that "if the exclusive Charter should expire in 1794, still the Company would be a body corporate in perpetuity, and entitled to trade in its joint stock.—Under their original and perpetual charter, they have legally purchased or acquired Fort Saint George, St. Helena, Bombay and Calcutta. These possessions are their patrimonial property, and cannot be taken from them.—On the whole, they have an unalienable right to valuable landed possessions, amounting at least to £250,000 a year." Their exclusive privileges were extinguished in 1833; and in that year all this patrimonial property, together with all their rights and interests in the territories of India, were placed by them at the disposal of Parliament, to be thereafter held in trust for his Majesty, his heirs and successors, for the service of the Government of India. The Company also consented that their right to trade for their own profit, in common with other his Majesty's subjects, should remain in abeyance during such time as the Government of these territories were confided to them. The Government of India is, therefore, entrusted to the Commission of the East India Company to the 30th of April 1854, and if this trust should not be renewed by the 1st of May of that year, they will be entitled to demand "the redemption of their dividend," by the repayment of their capital, and they will then be at liberty, as a Chartered body, to enter again upon the commerce of India.

The President of the Board gave as a reason for refusing enquiry that "the affairs of India were now administered under an Act of Parliament." But, assuredly not more so than they have been for the last sixty-seven years. In the speech from which we have made our quotations, Mr. Dundas stated that under the system of control established in 1784, "the Company had now become the organs by which the Indian Empire of Britain ought to be administered." Mr. Sullivan informs us, that the Act of 1793—of which we have not a copy—is entitled an Act for continuing in the East India Company for a further term, the possession of the British territories in India, and establishing further regulations for the Government of the said territories. The Act of 1813 bears the same title; and the Act of 1833, declares that "it is expedient that the said territories, now under the Government of the said Company, be continued under such Government, but in trust for the Crown of Great Britain." The affairs of India, therefore, were not more administered under an Act of Parliament since the Act of 1833, than they have been since 1784, and the reason thus given by the President for refusing a Select Committee of Enquiry, proves nothing beyond Sir John Hobhouse's perfect confidence in the ignorance and gullibility of the House.

By placing the Government of India in the hands of the East India Company is trust, for the limited period of twenty years, Parliament may be considered as having given the pub-

lic something like an implied pledge that, at the end of that period, and when the trust ceased, or came to be renewed, there should be a full enquiry into the mode in which the new system of Government had worked. The President said that "there were circumstances which induced the Governments of 1812 and 1833 to institute a Select Committee previous to the Bills which were passed on those occasions which did not exist at the present time." Certainly not. The "circumstance" of 1812, was the irresistible demand of the merchants and the manufacturers of England to participate in the trade of India, and that of 1833, the equally vigorous and successful clamour for throwing open the trade to China. Those circumstances unquestionably do not exist at the present time, because the trade to India and to China has been thrown open, and the commercial character of the Government has altogether ceased. But the question is, whether there are not other and stronger circumstances at the present time to induce Government to institute a Select Committee—whether the extension of the empire to the Khyber pass, the vast encroachment of real knowledge we have gained regarding these possessions through the freedom of the Press, the variety of new and important questions arising out of the progress of our institutions, and all the evils and anomalies which have grown up in the administration, with all the vigor and rankness of oriental vegetation, do not point out the absolute necessity of investigation. Every other dependency of the Crown is constantly under the eye of Parliament, and the conduct of its administration, is constantly liable to be overhauled by a hostile Committee; while India, with the largest interests and the largest population of all, comes only once in twenty years under the cognizance of Parliament, and when that period has come round, the Dictator of India informs the House that it is not his intention to allow of any Parliamentary enquiry at all; and that if he thought any material change necessary, he would give early intimation of it. This from a *Wily* Minister of India. What a striking contrast does it present to the frank, liberal, and noble declaration of the *Tory* Minister, Mr. Dundas, in the debates of 1793: "It was always my object in all the reports which I have annually submitted to Parliament, and in all the publications on Indian affairs which I have either patronized or authorized to give to the public every thing that I myself knew respecting the subject, and to take off the veil from what has been called the *Arcana* of Indian Politics and Trade, that the plans respecting them, in their succession, might lie open to the understanding of every man who would take the trouble of perusing and studying them. It was from this freedom of communication, I expected the kind of knowledge would be diffused, which could enable the Members of this House and the nation at large, to examine and decide upon the propositions which I was to submit to the good sense and probity of the British nation. The legislature and the public could then judge for themselves, what system of foreign and domestic government would be best suited to the Asiatic interests of their country."

**LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE ACT.**—We have been favored with a copy of a pamphlet containing the Petitions of the Hindoo Inhabitants of Bengal, Behar, Orissa and Madras, against the enactment of the *Lex Loci* Act, for altering the law of Inheritance, with the reply of Government, and other documents. The little

pamphlet contains the original enactment for the establishment of liberty of Conscience in 1832, the *Lex Loci* draft Act, into which it was subsequently introduced, and Act XXXI. of 1850, which established this great and enlightened principle throughout India. It also gives us the successive petitions which have been got up in Madras and in Calcutta against the enactment. The latter is pompously styled the petition of the Hindoo Committee, appointed at a meeting of Hindoos of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, held in Calcutta on the 14th day of May, in the Christian year 1850, though we question whether there were so many as half a dozen natives of Behar, or a single inhabitant of Orissa present on the occasion. It is the object of the publisher to rescue from oblivion, these memorials of the sentiments entertained by the Hindoos in the middle of the nineteenth century on the important question of religious liberty, and we very highly commend both the object and the utility of his labors. We consider it a matter of great national interest, that these important documents should thus be preserved from destruction, and be treasured up for the contemplation of a future age. The movement to which they refer will serve as a great land mark, by which future generations of Hindoos will be enabled to estimate the progress of their liberality. Twenty-two years only have elapsed since the rite of female immolation was abolished, and so considerable has been the improvement in the tone of native Society, that there are many men to be found even among the present memorialists who are ready to deny that it ever existed. But for the present collection of records, the Hindoos, even before the close of the present century, might refuse to admit that their ancestors had ever considered the power of reducing to beggary every man who forsook his national creed among "the dearest rights" of Hindoos. The time is steadily though slowly coming on, when the present documents will be perused with the same feelings with which we now read the narrative of Archbishop Chicheley's intolerance, when he made suit to Henry the 5th, that his Grace would allow him, for the love of God, and our Saviour, to burn up Lord Cobham as an incorrigible heretic.

**BRANDISHING DESERTERS.**—A week or two ago, the report of a Court Martial was given in the papers, in which Private Wheatley of H. M. 75th Regiment was sentenced for desertion and making away with regimental necessaries, to transportation for seven years. The Commander-in-Chief was dissatisfied with the sentence and ordered the Court to revise it, on which the culprit was adjudged to eight months' imprisonment, and finally to be marked with the letter D, in the usual manner. The usual manner signifies that the letter shall be impainted on the skin two inches below the arm-pit, with some ink or gunpowder, or other preparation, so as to be visible and conspicuous, and not liable to be obliterated. We can entertain no doubt, that the punishment of branding thus inflicted by the sentence of a Court Martial, is in strict accordance with Military law, and that a Court which had found the accused guilty of desertion, had no option but to inflict the usual punishment. We therefore address ourselves not to those who are bound by their oath strictly to administer that law, but to those on whom the higher responsibility rests of modifying it to suit the circumstances of the times and the country. We would draw their particular attention to the fact, that the punishment of branding culprits which has

prevailed in India from the golden age of Hindoism to the present day, has been at length abolished by the British Government, in all the Criminal Courts of the country. Act II. of 1846, passed on the 29th of January in that year, affirms that it is thought fit to abolish wholly the practice of branding throughout the Territories of the East India Company, and that every enactment in the Bengal, Madras, or Bombay Code which directs that any convicted offenders shall have an indelible mark made upon their foreheads, or any part of their persons, is rescinded.

The abolition of this punishment, with ages of prescription in its favor, is an index of the progress of enlightened views in our Indian councils, and it would be an act of great moral inconsistency if the liberal principle embodied in the Act was excluded from any Court of English law in India. When any such improvement in criminal jurisprudence has been recognized by the state, every tribunal should be brought up to the same standard. The entire abolition of this practice throughout the territories governed by the Company, fixes the strongest condemnation on it which it is possible for the public authorities to inflict, and it will be a disgraceful anomaly if a punishment which was deemed too degrading and barbarous for a native of the country, is any longer permitted in the case of Europeans. This is so apparent, as scarcely to require the support of any argumentation, but, the question may be illustrated by a reference to our proceedings in the case of lotteries. The public voice of the age had condemned them long before they were legally prohibited in India. The Government of Bengal, at the head of which was Mr. Bird, discovered in 1848, that the half yearly lotteries in Calcutta were perpetuated upon a specific order from the local authorities, which required to be repeated in each instance; and it was determined to suppress them by simply withholding the periodical notice. Lord Ellenborough is understood to have held the opinion that while private lotteries were highly injurious to the interests of society, a well regulated lottery, under the direction of the public authorities, was open to no objection whatever. The members of Council were anxious however to abolish the system of lotteries throughout the country. Hence, in the draft Act which was drawn up on the subject, his Lordship's views were respected, by declaring that all lotteries not authorized by Government were common and public nuisances, and against law, while at the same time, the Preamble stated that "great mischief had been found to result from lotteries." The inconsistency of branding lotteries as mischievous, and as common and public nuisances, and at the same time allowing Government to establish them, appears to have been altogether overlooked by the legislators. But it soon became palpable when the Government of Madras, which drew a clear annual income of a lakh of Rupees from its lotteries, addressed the Government of India, and enquired how it was possible for the lotteries at that Presidency to be continued in the face of an Act which had branded all lotteries as mischievous. It was, at once, felt that after this condemnation they must be relinquished throughout India, if Government had any regard for its own reputation; and thus, the disengagement of all such revenues in the Act, rendered the reservation which had been made in favor of Government lotteries, entirely nugatory. In like manner, the strong condemnation of branding which the Act for abolishing the practice, involves, must speedily render it imperative to modify the law in regard to this

sentences of Courts Martial, and to bring it into conformity to what may now be considered one of the established principles of penal legislation in India.

**MAURITIUS COOLIES.**—The Mauritius Commercial Gazette of the 28th February, contains a very brief summary of the address of the Governor, Mr. Higginson, to the Legislative Council on the 27th of February last, in which his Excellency makes the following important remarks regarding the immigration of our coolies. Although the budget only contained an allowance for 8000 coolies, it was evident that less than 9000 would not suffice; in the previous year, the number introduced into the colony amounted to 5000, and a rate of wages averaging 12s. or 6 Rs. a month, exclusive of rations, had been maintained, and there was not the least difficulty in procuring employment. He said that the Mauritius was indebted to immigration for having overcome her difficulties, and there was no doubt that the physical condition of the immigrants was improved; they were well treated and cared for. Looking at the worst, the prospects of the Colony were now sufficient to ensure continued employment to the laborers introduced, and, whatever might happen, there were always sufficient funds in hand to pay their passage back if they could not find employment.

This is a very satisfactory and gratifying view of the result of immigration. It has saved the colony, and benefited the laborers. Although we were among the most strenuous opponents of the Cooly trade to the Mauritius ten years ago, yet we have nothing to retract in reference to the aspect of existing circumstances. Our observations were strictly in point at the period when they were written. That which is now an organized system of immigration, conducted under the vigilant eye of Government, and freed from all abuses, was then an unregulated traffic in the hands of private and rapacious speculators, who dispersed their agents over this country to entice men to Calcutta under false pretences, and then placed them under restraint till they could be smuggled on board some ship, in which, moreover, they were crowded together, and neglected to a degree which strongly reminded us of the "horrors of the middle passage." This nefarious system has been extinguished, and Government has taken the immigration into its own hands. The laborers are engaged by an emigration agent in Calcutta who acts under the strongest feeling of responsibility; their embarkation is strictly voluntary; they are faithfully provided with all the comforts on the voyage which they could claim, and on their arrival in the island, instead of finding their services disposed of to the highest bidder, they are at once placed under the safeguard of the public authorities. They are well treated and well cared for. That their physical condition is materially improved there can be no doubt. They are enabled to earn more and to save more than they could have done in their own country; and many of them return with a small purse which renders them independent for life. They come back, also, with a degree of mental and social independence, which is not among the least recommendations of the present plan. A Hindu peasant gains immensely whenever he is enabled to quit this scene of sacerdotal and Zemindary tyranny. Here he is crushed to the earth by the various influences which seem, like the atmosphere, to press on him on all sides. When once transferred to another country, and brought into new and more healthy associations, his character

appears to undergo a bright transformation, and he becomes more free in thought, and in action. Five years' residence at the Mauritius appears to make him a Man. The same auspicious improvement is visible, whenever the Indian laborer leaves Bengal and takes up his residence in the province of ARRAN, where he is separated from all the debasing influences of his native soil, and is enabled to sit down to the cultivation of his own plot of ground, with all the pride and energy of independence.

One of our contemporaries at Madras appears to deprecate the abstraction of so many coolies annually from the labors of the soil in India, as injurious to the interests of agriculture. At this Presidency, however, with our teeming population, the loss of 6 or 6000 coolies will scarcely be felt; if felt at all, it will be only in the "useful influence it exerts over the interests of those which remain. This drainage has the same happy influence on the social body which bleeding has on a natural body of phthoristic habits. Notwithstanding the emigration of so many of our coolies to the Mauritius, even the extra demand of the Railway has not disturbed the market of labor. Bengal is a great pauper warren, in which the population appears to be constantly pressing on the means of subsistence. Much has been said, and with great truth about the extortions and tyranny of the landlords, and various legislative measures have been proposed for removing them. But as long as the Zemindar knows that if one ryot is not prepared to take the land at his own exorbitant terms, there are a dozen others ready to supply his place—what can laws do? The thinning of the population by emigration to the Mauritius, so far as it goes, cannot but produce a salutary effect on the welfare of the rural population, at the same time that it effects an important and a valuable change in the habits and condition of the emigrants.

**THE LATE REV. A. W. STREET.**—We regret to record the death of the Rev. A. W. Street, the senior professor of Bishop's College. His loss will be deeply, and more particularly, felt by the institution of which he has so long been the life and soul, and not less perhaps, generally, by the cause of evangelization. With the extreme Tractarian views of which Mr. Street was considered the great champion in this country, we have never had any sympathy, but this irreconcilability of opinion, on certain points, does not lessen in our minds the value of his zealous and indefatigable labors in a public institution, or in the Missionary field connected with it. His Missionary devotedness was above all commendation, and it will be no easy matter to supply the place of one who not only possessed great talents, but concentrated them with such untiring energy to this sacred cause. It is delightful, moreover, in this desecrated and half-hearted community, to behold the rare spectacle of a man with a purpose, and that a noble one, and with the enthusiasm and ardor necessary to carry it out, and his presence removal will, therefore, leave a melancholy void in the circle of Christian workers.

**THE LONDON MISERABLE SOCIETY'S INTERESTING ADDRESS.**—We have been favored with a paper containing an outline of this Institution, its past history, its present condition, and its future prospects, together with the elevation and ground plan of the building. On the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone, we witnessed so fully on the subject as to leave no room to say at the present time.



except to recommend it anew to the liberality of all those who take an interest in the progress of evangelical truth in India. The reader has only to read over the brief statement which will be found in another column, to perceive the large claim which this institution has on public support, more especially in reference to the completion of the buildings. It is the more pleasing to us to notice the consummation of the plan of this establishment, because, with one exception, it fills up the circle of Missionary Institutions in and around the metropolis. All the bodies engaged in Missionary undertakings at this Presidency, the Gospel Propagation Society, the Church Missionary Society, the Church of Scotland, the Free Church, and the London Missionary Society have, one and all, their separate institutions for the training up of Missionary laborers, and for the diffusion of knowledge on Christian principles among the natives of the country. One body of men alone, those with whom the missionary impulse of the nineteenth century originated, and who turned up the first missionary road in Bengal, remain to be provided with a "Missionary institution" as we mean the Baptist Missionary Society. We feel confident, however, that although those who were then the first in the field, have, from an adverse combination of circumstances, allowed themselves to be the last in organizing training establishment, the public spirit which led their predecessors to commence a Mission to the Heathen with a purse of Thirteen pounds, two and six pence, is not extinct in the denomination; and that they will soon be found second to none in the cause of Missionary education.

**THE CAPE.**—We have received a number of Cape journals, full of details of the war now going on in Kaffraria, but we are indebted for the latest intelligence to an Extra Cape Town Mail of the 3rd March, re-published in the *Englishman*. It is on the whole highly encouraging. Major General Somerset, at the head of a corps of the Cape Mounted Rifles, and supported by the Burgher Volunteers and *Lozies*, had taken Fort Armstrong. This Fort, situated in the Kat River settlement, had been taken by the rebel Kaffirs, and was defended with extraordinary bravery. The Burghers arrived before the Fort on the 22nd February, and were joined by General Somerset and the Cape Rifles at Ten o'clock. The Fort was shelled for some time, and then stormed, in the teeth of a desperate resistance. Thirty-seven of the enemy were killed in the Fort, and nine more in a tower which General Somerset found himself compelled to blow up with shells. Upwards of 200 men were taken prisoners, with 400 women and children, and the fort was finally destroyed. The Burghers are said in the official report to have fought desperately, and "the whole Colony was indebted for its salvation to the conduct of these Burghers." It is said that among the Kaffirs who surrendered, were two Englishmen, but the circumstances are not explained, and we would fain hope there is some mistake in the report, which is only taken from a private letter. The whole country appears from these accounts to have been aroused, and *Lozies* and Volunteers were pouring from all directions to the assistance of the *Harry Smith* and General Somerset.

**THE MURDER OF JOHN DUFFIN (OF THE MURDER OF FOLK).**—It is not often that we have a clearer power of indication to us of any of the half-witted *Englishmen* who are in the country.

named above, has manifested considerable knowledge of his subject, and used much less vituperation than the generality of native writers. He treats too of an evil which is gradually becoming more intolerable, and which threatens in some districts of Bengal, to destroy all the benefits of an equitable system of Government; we allude to the state of the native police of the Mofussil. With the exception of the Indigo planters, the European residents in Bengal come in contact with these gentry too seldom to understand the extent of misery they are capable of inflicting upon a timid population. After a high flow of scurrilism in the usual style, about the abstract duties of Governments and their subjects, the writer passes on to the exceeding cowardice and inutility of the village police. As this question lies at the very root of all our institutions, we intend hereafter to take it up more fully, and shall at present content ourselves with noticing the remedy proposed by the native author. He wishes Government to appoint the taller and braver people of the North West to these situations, in place of the Bengalees of all descriptions who at present call themselves the Company's Chowkdar. Of the utter incapacity of the present race there cannot be a doubt, but the right of appointment does not rest with Government, but with the Zemindars. These gentlemen do in some instances fulfil their police obligations with a praiseworthy consideration for their villagers, but in the great majority of cases their object is to appoint men who will do as little work as possible, for the smallest amount of remuneration. Some of our readers may have heard a story of a Zemindar, not very far from Calcutta, who discovered that a Zemindar had appointed an old woman as chowkdar. He posted to the spot in a native derv, enquired into the matter, and was promptly conveyed to his own prison by the old woman, and her relatives, for making a disturbance, and calling himself a Magistrate. We do not vouch for the truth of this whimsical story, but it is not an unfair specimen of the system. So great is the evil, that we know of one district nearly as large as Wales, where the Government Police numbers two hundred, and the rural police, over whom the Magistrate has no control whatever, amount to six thousand. Till this state of things is reformed, the Government is powerless, and the writer's proposition falls to the ground.

He next falls upon the *Darogahs*, who, he says, cannot distinguish between good and bad, but pound them all together, drive them all to the same stable, i. e. the Jail, and make them all groan alike. Whenever this official arrives in a village to enquire into a dacoity, there is an immediate pestilence among the cows and hens, and what the *Darogah's* subordinate cannot eat, they carry away. This may be all very true and very terrible, but the people have only themselves to blame. If a *Darogah* were to attempt such oppression in the North-West Provinces, the peasantry would teach him justice, by a broken head. Such vigor in the lower Provinces would improve the administration of justice immensely. The writer then proceeds to recommend that the dacoits should be extirpated by a system, altered from that which proved so successful with the Thugs, but he has scarcely considered this part of the question with sufficient care. The insurmountable objection to such a proceeding, is that the number of regular dacoits is very small comparatively speaking, and that their followers are principally poor rascals, driven to plunder by some temporary calamity, and with scarcely enough of understanding to distinguish good from evil. It would be in the highest degree unjust, even were it not impossible, to transport or imprison these men by hundreds; and the *Sirdar* dacoits would scarcely be discovered by a system of approval. It is well known to every Magistrate in disorderly districts, that a *Sirdar* dacoit never confesses, and that he is of all men the most difficult to bring within the grasp of the law. The people must trust mainly to themselves. It is said that there has not been a successful dacoity for years, in Pundooah, though it is situated in the heart of a dacoity district, because the descendants of a body of Hindostanee haves, by some accident, been settled there, and the life of a dacoit caught in the fact would not be worth a minute's purchase. Although we do not think either of the facts proposed calculated to produce the immediate effect of the system of dacoity, we are not the

less glad to see native writers like the one before us, address themselves to practical measures for the evils which afflict the country.

We have been favored with the following statement regarding the period in which the telegraphic despatch was received in London by the two routes of Trieste and Marseilles:—

	Via Trieste.	Via Marseilles.
April, ... ..	16th	17th
May, ... ..	20th	20th
June, ... ..	16th	16th
July, ... ..	17th	16th
August, ... ..	16th	17th
September, ... ..	16th	23rd
October, ... ..	16th	21st
November, ... ..	16th	16th
December, ... ..	16th	16th
	1861.	
January, ... ..	13th	17th
February, ... ..	14th	17th

We have received the April Number of the *Bengalee Magazine* which contains the following articles:—

- I. Kanyasulk's Discovery of Language.
- II. Remarks on the Bengali New Testament.
- III. The Pulpit and its power.
- IV. Hofrath von Schubert's Travels and Tales.
- V. The Casuarina Tree.
- VI. Some Considerations on the Occupations of the Blessed in a future Life.
- VII. How we tried to see the Sun.
- VIII. The poor of England, their Industrial, Social, and Religious Wrongs.
- IX. Wanderings in Western India.
- X. The Urdu Version of the Book of Common Prayer.

WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, MAY 1.

—We perceive from a paragraph in the *Englishman*, that a small "war" which has been carried on for some time in the jungles of Outback, has terminated in favour of the Commissioner. The *Rajah* of Nyagah has been trying contributions from the *Englishmen* for perpetrating various acts of oppression towards his own subjects. On the 1st of March, however, he gave himself up to the Commissioner, who immediately despatched him. His soul is still at large, but the "rebellion" is at an end.

—We perceive that Baboo Kanyasulk Dutt, Chief Judge of the Small Cause Court, has found it necessary to resign Mr. Lowe, one of the Pleaders of that Court, from practicing any longer before him. Mr. Lowe had, it appears, ventured to counsel a document belonging to a plaintiff in the Court, and thereby nearly subjected the party to a lawsuit. We are glad to perceive that the *Baboo* has shown no judicious degree of firmness.—The native Judge has subsequently withdrawn his decision, declaring his belief that Mr. Lowe's offence was the result of negligence rather than design.

—The report of the Native Dispensary in the district of Raghuraj, has been published in the *Englishman*, and we are happy to perceive that the officials and Zemindars of the district have supported the institution with spirit. The receipts during the past year, amounted to Rs. 2,000, and the expenses to Rs. 1,602, leaving a balance of Rs. 418 to the credit of the Dispensary. The number of applications for Medical or surgical relief last year was 1,716, of whom 1,146 were discharged cured, 430 ceased attending, and 20 died. A *putna* house is in course of erection, and an application has been made to Government to sanction the appointment of a Sub-Assistant Surgeon, but the application, however, has not yet been successful. An excellent letter from Dr. Bellamy, advising measures of sanitary reform, was read to the Meeting, and the names of defunct subscribers were struck off and posted.

—We perceive from the *Moslem Journal*, that the *Commissaire* sent from Calcutta to that settlement of *Masnahal*, the person who is supposed of having been the actual perpetrator of the assault upon Mr. Arambow, has failed in his mission. *Masnahal* has not been heard of, and the report of his having failed on the *John Hope*, is said to be fabulous.

—A remarkable case of libel was tried in the Supreme Court on Thursday, the 28th April. A paragraph appearing some months ago in a defunct journal, the *Bengal Times*, severely reflecting on the character of the Pilot Service as a body, and declaring that they had a discretionary power of "confining their prisoners by sending them to the banks." The Judge decided, that though a violent attack on a whole body, might be libellous, yet there was nothing in the paragraph in question which could be





















Calcutta, March, 1851.





pay up their shares at this rate, when the market value of exchange is nearer two shillings. But we think that a little consideration will reconcile them to the rule. A twelve month ago, when the ordinary exchange was below one and ten pence, the Indian shareholders did not consider that they had any reason to complain of an arrangement which gave them more than the market rate; and it is only since the improvement of the exchange,—which has within the last two months fluctuated between one and eleven pence, and two and a penny,—that they have had any reason for dissatisfaction. But they should bear in mind that it is optional for them to pay calls and to receive dividends in London or in Calcutta, either in pounds sterling or in Rupees; that is to say, they may pay £20 for each share in London, or Rs. 218-2-11 pie in Calcutta, and receive a dividend of £1 at home, or Rs. 10-14-4 in India. The coming call is £3 or Rs. 10-14-4 in India. Rs. 32-11-8; but if the shareholder be desirous of paying the sum in London, he may give intimation of his wish at the Railway office in Calcutta, and remit the amount of his call to London in a bill at an exchange of 2s., or whatever may be the current rate of the day. The Shareholders should not forget that if they are required to pay Rs. 218-2-11 for a share of twenty Pounds in India, they also receive the full dividend of Five per Cent. on it, or Rs. 10-14-4 for it. The matter is therefore as long as it is broad.

**LORD HARDINGE'S NOTIFICATION.**—In our remarks on this celebrated notice a fortnight ago, we said that "before a twelve month had elapsed, the Notification was modified and its liberal spirit extinguished." The admission of distinguished students on the state roll from the various private seminaries was cancelled, and the range of selection limited to the two favorite institutions of the Education Board, the Hooghly and the Hindoo Colleges, to which the Dacca College had been added in the last year." These expressions have been considered to be stronger than the facts of the case will justify, and we are therefore fully prepared to modify them, and instead of saying that the admission of distinguished students from private seminaries was cancelled, to state that another system was adopted, by which the Notification was virtually, though not intentionally, nullified, and that it has consequently been a dead letter ever since.

We shall briefly illustrate this assertion by a reference to the facts published by the Council of Education. The various Missionary bodies in Bengal have established institutions in which they impart a thorough English education to the Natives, in conjunction with the principles of Christian truth and morals. More than half the students of English in and about Calcutta are thus educated in other than the seminaries and colleges of the State, and the Missionary institutions, whether so considered or not, are among the most important agencies in the work of public instruction. Not only, however, have they never received the smallest encouragement from Government, but their existence was never recognized until the celebrated Notification of Lord Hardinge. They were regarded in much the same light as a High Churchman regards a Dissenting institution at home. The distinguishing principle of that celebrated Notification was to afford the strongest impulse to the cause of intellectual improvement in Bengal without reference to the instruments employed in promoting it. It placed the students of all institutions upon terms of equality, according to their merits, and

proposed to make an equal distribution of the public patronage among them. It breathed a generous, noble and enlightened spirit. It was to the Missionary seminaries what the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts was to the Dissenting communities in England. It ran thus:

"The Governor-General is further pleased to direct, that the Council of Education be requested to receive from the Governors or Managers of all Scholastic Establishments, other than those supported out of the public funds, similar returns of meritorious Students, and to incorporate them, after due and sufficient enquiry, with those of the Government Institutions; and also that the Managers of such Establishments be publicly invited to furnish returns of that description, periodically; to the Council of Education."

This Notification was dated early in October, 1844. Within six months of this period, some time in April, or May, 1845, the Council of Education proposed to the Government of Bengal that "all persons whose names are inserted in the list of those qualified for the service of Government shall have passed, satisfactorily, an examination similar to that which entitles a student to a senior Scholarship at the Calcutta, and Hooghly Colleges which embraced a critical acquaintance with the works of Bacon, Johnson, Milton and Shakespeare; a knowledge of ancient and modern history, and of the higher branches of mathematical science and the principles of moral philosophy and political economy, together with considerable facility of composition and the power of writing in fluent and idiomatic language, an impromptu essay on any given subject of history, moral, or political economy." To this proposal the Government of Bengal gave its immediate consent; on which the Council of Directors remarked: "It appears to us that the standard can only be attained by students in the Government Colleges, and that therefore it virtually gives them a monopoly of the public patronage." The Court added the following sensible remarks, to which, however, no attention appears ever to have been paid.

"Nor are we disposed to regard a high degree of Scholastic knowledge constituting an essential qualification for the public service. To require only a moderate and practical knowledge of English with a thorough command of the vernacular language and testimonials of regularity of attendance, civility, and good conduct, will be in our opinion the best way to obtain the largest number of candidates competent to become useful officers in the different rank of the Revenue and Judicial departments, though we do not deny that there may be some few appointments which it may be desirable to bestow as the reward of exceptional proficiency in the higher branches of literature." Thus it will be seen that the remarks which we made on the modification of the notice, and the contracting effect of it, were precisely those which the Council of Directors had made before us.

After "much discussion, and a most careful and anxious consideration of the questions in all their bearings" during the space of Three entire years, the Council of Education submitted a report embodying the result of their deliberations. In this report, they enter minutely into the discussions held with the Missionaries, whose students had been so completely excluded from the benefit of the Notification by the subsequent alterations made in it. We have no space for details, and give the summing up of the whole in the language of the Council:—

"The objection to the present plan most seriously entertained, and emphatically urged by the managers and members of private schools, was founded upon the apprehension that, in such an examination, their pupils would compete on unequal terms, and would appear to disadvantage when compared with students from the Government Colleges. Accordingly, the Council again applied to Dr.

Duff to know whether that objection would be removed by all our candidates being exempt from classification; the names of those who obtained the first and second classes being stated in a separate alphabetical list, so as to make a comparison between them and the students of the Hindu and Hooghly Colleges impossible, so as to put the examination on a fair basis.

"This proposal was distinctly repudiated by Dr. Duff, who maintained that nothing short of a total difference of subject would meet the objections of the conductors of the Missionary schools."

Here the matter ended. The Missionaries were considered impracticable, and the whole blame of the failure was laid at their door. Whether, however, it was the Missionaries, or the Council of Education, who were impracticable, it is not for us to decide. If the Missionaries were impracticable, it was simply because the spirit and object of the Notification of 1844, had been so completely changed in the succeeding year.

This is the only question with which we have any editorially to deal,—was the Notification so modified in 1845, and its operation so narrowed, that none but the students of Government Schools have since been able to benefit by it, and we believe our assertion is fully and triumphantly borne out by the brief narrative we have given above. The plan of examination which the Council of Education has since established may be more advisable; they may be right in excluding from the public service, all but the highest Mathematicians; they may be equally right in having a measure of the students of all Missionary institutions from becoming candidates for the service of Government. With all this we have nothing to do at present. We simply maintain that the Notification of 1844, has been essentially nullified: that the Council of Education instead of receiving from the governors and managers of all scholastic establishments, not supported by the State, similar returns of meritorious students and incorporating them, after due and sufficient enquiry, with those of the Government institutions, "have fixed a standard of examination which in the opinion of their own Masters at home can only be attained by students in the Government Colleges, and which gives them virtually a monopoly of public patronage."

The present system is so anomalous, so unjust and so unsatisfactory that it cannot, of course, stand. The only reason why nothing more has been said against the contracted system of drawing up the lists so as to include only the State scholars is, that the Returns themselves ordered in the Notification of 1844 have become perfectly nugatory, as we showed last week. The whole scheme of the Notification has fallen into the most profound contempt. If ever they should show any signs of vitality, and an entry on the roll should lead to any thing, the alumni of other institutions will demand full and free admission to it, and they must obtain it. As to the mode of admitting them on the roll, which has so sadly puzzled the Council of Education for so many years, the necessity of throwing the returns open, whenever it is enforced, will render the discovery of the means singularly easy. To us the root of the evil appears to consist in this, that the directors of the Government Schools and Colleges, and the Council of Education, are one and the same body. The Council must necessarily feel a strong predilection for the institutions which engage so much of their benevolent solicitude, and for the system of English tuition which has their exclusive suffrage, and they are not therefore in position to be fair judges of the result of other institutions, or other systems of tuition. As long as this union continues, the Missionary in-

institutions can scarcely expect fairly in the race of competition, nor can we expect the establishment of a system of vernacular education, suited to the wants of the country. We believe the Council of Education has rendered essential services to the country. It is a small body, but there exists a body of men like the members of that body, who are so zealous in watching over the progress of the public schools and colleges, and so anxious to raise them to the highest state of efficiency. But they cannot overcome the disadvantages of their position. They are in their place as superintendents of the Government Schools, but sadly out of place as a Council of National Education. The two offices are incompatible. We want a Minister of Public Instruction, whose business it shall be, not to foster and superintend Government Schools, but to take charge of the department of national instruction; who shall be unfettered by partialities for any particular institutions; who shall stand in the same relation to the institutions supported by the State as to those which are not, and shall consider it his vocation to turn all the education given in India, either by benevolence—so to speak—or unrequented agency, to public account. If there must be a Council, instead of a single Minister, it should be vested with the same functions as the Committee of the Privy Council on Education in England.

**IMPROVEMENTS IN SCINDE. MONTHLY LINE OF STEAM COMMUNICATION.**—The anticipations of improvement we were led to entertain on the appointment of Mr. Fere to the Government of Scinde, are beginning rapidly to be realized. The *Bombay Times* informs us that the present jail at Kurrachee is likely to be converted into a caravanserai for the accommodation of travellers from all parts of central Asia; "for there is scarcely country from the Orus to the Sea, that has not its representatives in the course of the year at Kurrachee." A new market was about to be constructed for the general resort of traders, where protection from the weather for themselves and their property might be found. A Rest House had just been established, on the high road between the Bunder and the camp, for the accommodation of travellers. The Commissioner "sees every thing with his own eyes, and does more with his own hands than most men would think of attempting." We shall soon have the same delight in contemplating the administration of Scinde, which has long been felt in viewing the wise and vigorous administration of the North-West Provinces.

But of all the improvements in the province of young Egypt, by far the most important which has yet been announced, is the immediate establishment of a monthly steam communication between Kurrachee and Mooltan. Great efforts have been made of late to engender the steam fottilla on the Indus, and the happy results of them are about to be exhibited by a forward movement, which reminds us more of the Anglo-Saxon energy in America than of our small life pace in the East. When Sir William Macnaghten first passed down this river in 1838, on the unfortunate expedition to Cabul, he was struck with the melancholy contrast it afforded to the Ganges. While the latter presented the animated scene of hundreds of vessels constantly moving up and down on its bosom, the Indus showed only here and there a solitary bark, and scarcely any traffic at all. Nothing could be more appropriate than the name of the "silent Indus" which Sir William conferred on it. We have now been

in possession of the province for eight years, and the scene is about to be changed. In a few months we shall have a line of steamers navigating this stream and connecting the towns on its banks, by a regular and rapid communication, with the new Port of the Indus which we have established at Kurrachee. It is difficult to estimate the advantages which will be conferred by this monthly steamer on the countries through which the river flows, or the extent to which it may be expected to stimulate the industry of the people, and open new sources of trade, and new vents for British manufactures, in the provinces adjacent to it. But among those to benefit by this periodical communication will be, in the first instance, the English residents in Mooltan, and the neighbouring districts, who will now be enabled to receive their supplies from Kurrachee, at a much cheaper rate, and with greater rapidity and regularity than from the provinces to the Eastward which are fed from Calcutta. The general result of this periodical steamer, must be to improve the value of the province of Scinde in no ordinary degree, perhaps also to afford some compensation to the people for the irregular manner in which they became subjected to our dominion. The drain on the resources of the older provinces, which has been the great reproach against Scinde, has been gradually diminishing, and with the new impulse of improvement now given to it, we may at no distant period, expect to find it cease altogether. These improvements on the Indus, and the steady expansion of our institutions in other quarters to the east and the west, give something of a character of romance to our proceedings in Asia. Who would have credited for a moment in 1841 any prophetic announcement that before ten years had elapsed, we should have a monthly steamer anchored off Mooltan, and a large reading room at Shungais?

The *Telegraph and Courier* thinks that "the encouragement of the stream of traffic by this route, and the withdrawal of the homeward bound voyagers from the Calcutta line will speedily render Bombay the favorite port of embarkation for Europe." We shall certainly not begrudge the sister Presidency the increased influx of passengers to and from England, which may grow out of the establishment of steamers on the Indus. It will be one of the natural results of her advantageous position: and it will be associated with the improvement of internal communication in the British Empire in India, in which we can all heartily rejoice. The anticipation of our contemporary will, doubtless, be in part realized. When facilities are created for a short, easy and inexpensive voyage from Mooltan to Bombay, a large proportion of the European residents in the Punjab will, in all probability, hasten to avail themselves of them, and those who would otherwise have been obliged to proceed to Allahabad, and take steam there to Calcutta, will find it more convenient to embark at Mooltan. To British officers in the Punjab, this route will probably offer greater attractions than that down the Ganges, notwithstanding the astonishing improvement of land carriage in the North West, which enables the traveller to get over the ground with ease and comfort at the rate of more than eight miles an hour. We must now look to the establishment of our Rail to restore the position of Calcutta, and again render it the favorite port of embarkation for Europe. Whenever a European in the North West provinces shall be able to reach Calcutta in three or four days, by the train, the city of Palaces will regain all its attractions.

**DEBTS OF THE ARMY: THEIR CAUSES AND REMEDIES.**—We have for some time had on our table a copy of this pamphlet, which consists of a letter addressed to the Governor General by a Bengal Subaltern. The subject is one of the deepest importance to the welfare of the army, and the credit of Government, and it is treated of in this paper with great spirit and ability by an officer of nearly ten years' standing. His statements, though startling and even humiliating, are in strict accordance with the truth, and will be fully corroborated by all those who are acquainted with the internal economy of the army. There is an honesty of purpose, and an earnestness of tone in the pamphlet, which, combined with the large experience of the writer and the great powers of observation and description he exhibits, cannot fail to command attention. His object is not to vilify the army with which his lot is cast, and whose reputation is bound up with his own, but to remove those evils which injure its character, and affect its welfare. We are happy therefore to find that it has created so great a sensation throughout the country. There is scarcely a journal at my Presidency which has not manifested the highest estimation in which his efforts are held, by an elaborate and favorable notice of them. We hope the pamphlet will produce a salutary effect on the minds of our Indian rulers, and not only rouse their attention to the evils which the writer has so vividly described, but lead them to adopt the most energetic means for their removal. The facts which the writer discloses, and the position in which he describes the army to be at present, exhibit a strange contrast to the representations annually published to the world in the addresses of the Chairman of the Court of Directors to the Addiscombe students. While the Chairman is drawing so bright a picture of the high vocation of this army, its honourable responsibilities, and its arduous duties, three-fourths of its members are in debt, and to the extent of a Million sterling, and not a month passes without exhibiting scenes of the deepest distress and humiliation from pecuniary embarrassment. We hope, therefore, that the pamphlet will also receive suitable attention both at the India Board, and the India House. It is true that the spirit of optimism which appears to have taken up its permanent residence in those offices should be dispelled, and that the Indian authorities both at the east and west end of the town, should open their eyes to the real state of the case, and give themselves no rest till the evils complained of are put in a train of being removed.

The first cause of debt, according to the writer, is the early age at which the Cadets are admitted into the service. The admissible age is sixteen; and two-thirds of the Cadets reach India before they are seventeen. It is of course evident that they are still mere boys, unformed in constitution and in habits, and juvenile in experience and resolution. They are at once launched on the great ocean of Indian life, with no friend to guide their minds or conduct, and it is not therefore surprising that so many of them should wreck their prospects for life. "The age of sixteen, is indeed the most unfortunate one that could have been selected. It is the hinge upon which the career hangs. The boy is just then commencing that finish to his education, which in my opinion is as necessary to the well being of a commissioned officer, as it is in any other polite station of life." He is removed from the influence of control, just at the time when it is most needed, and prematurely transplanted into a service, where, as the writer well describes it, he becomes a centurion before he

is nineteen. He is invested with the command of others before he has learned to govern himself. We think the Directors would perform a most acceptable service to the Indian army by fixing the minimum age at Eighteen, instead of Sixteen. The period of retirement would then be postponed for two years, but while it is a matter of little moment whether an officer retires at fifty-two or fifty, it is a question of vital importance that the critical period of life between sixteen and eighteen, should be passed under those disciplinary associations which shall give form and consistency to the character. Here the cure is in the hands of the Directors at home.

The second great cause of debt is the unhappy system of sending Cadets to do duty in large bodies at one station. "Barrackpore" says the writer, "used to be the Alma mater of our Ensignhood, until some of its fifth form tricks and practical jokes became so obnoxious to the aristocratic inhabitants of that locality, that the ruling powers of the day were induced to cart away the nuisance, and shoot it near the temples of the holy city of Cashi—Benares." At Barrackpore, the forty or fifty youths, who were let loose from the vessels which had imported them, played in a manner of pranks. At one time, the Unposted invited the station to an entertainment which cost them, it was said, 1,500 Rs. Then, again, they took an aversion to a cantankerous Colonel, and night after night untinged and carried off his gages. Again, there was an old lady at the station with a young daughter, who, she said, was not to wed but with the Adjutant of some Corps; and the truchins caught one of the huge birds called adjutants, and dressed it up with a coat, hat and sword, and sent it into the house. At length, one of the tigers in the park got loose, and the Unposted were charged with the frolic; the measure of their iniquity was now full, and they were banished to the upper stations, the farthest of which was Benares. At that station, they unfortunately contrived to establish a deep gambling, by which the prospects of many a generous and unsuspecting youth were ruined for life. If the scenes enacted in that hot bed of vice could have been brought to the knowledge of the fond parents who thought they had made a noble provision for their children by planting them in the Company's service, with what feelings of anguish would they have repented of their folly. The Bengal Subaltern only gives us the naked truth when he states, that "to some of the commandants and other old officers of Regiments to which batches of cadets are assigned, the poor boys actually become objects of the most intense abhorrence; they entail an additional amount of trouble and correspondence without in any way adding to the future credit of their regiment."

"The only men who take the least interest in him, are those who regard the case he belongs to, as walking annuities. They contrive to strip them of all they may possess; then induce them to borrow as much money as they can get credit for at the Banks, and after going through certain forms of shuffling cards, put the amount borrowed into their own pockets." At Benares not a few of the Cadets were reduced to a state of beggary; and when ordered to join their corps had not the means of marching. The writer mentions the case of one youth unable to move a yard out of Benares for want of means, by which he might obtain the bare necessities of life. At length, after repeated letters from the commandant of the corps he was to join, he made his appearance, having travelled in much the same manner that a discharged European soldier would be obliged to

travel. On being asked the cause of his long delay, he frankly stated that one-third of his pay and allowances—195 Rs. a month—was mortgaged to a Bank, one-third to a Court of Requests, and the remaining third to an officer of the Regiment with which he had done duty, and who had won largely of him at cards and billiards. On joining his regiment, he positively had only the good annas and pice which are tacked on to the tail of his abstract, on which to support himself as an officer and a gentleman! But what will the reader say to the glaring and iniquitous anomaly of the rule which ordains that the officer shall be sent to his regiment at the expense of the state, if he has been only eight months with a corps; but that he must travel at his own expense if he is detained beyond this period; at the same time, that he cannot move from the station without orders from Head Quarters.

The remedy for this evil is also in the hands of Government. When communications are made twice a month between the Head Quarters of the Army in India and Londonhill Street, and often reach England in thirty-five days, there can be no obstacle whatever to the posting of the Cadet to his corps, in England, before he embarks, as in the case of the Queen's Regiments. If that be deemed too troublesome, the Cadet ought to be attached to the corps in which he is to serve, the day he reaches Calcutta. It would be easy to arrange that his future destination should be awaiting his arrival, and be communicated as soon as he was ushered into the presence of the Superintendent of Cadets, and that preparation should be immediately made for his joining it. Perhaps, however, it would be more advisable that he should be posted in London, and that the Cadets whose regiments are stationed in the Punjab, should proceed to Bombay and from thence to Kurrachee, and, by the monthly steamer, to Mooltan.—We shall complete our notice of this work next week.

**NORTH WEST BANK OF INDIA.**—We have received from Mr. Tandy, the Secretary of the North West Bank of India "the true state of the Bank's affairs as far as it has been possible to ascertain it by a thorough and independent scrutiny at the Head office and Calcutta branch." The result of the scrutiny regarding the London branch has not been received. This investigation has disclosed a scene of negligence and fraud, which would strike the mind with astonishment, if we had not unapprehensively been accustomed to such scenes in our banking establishments in India. In the Calcutta branch, the amount of assets put down under the head of Loans is Rs. 372,310. With few exceptions, these loans have been made on inefficient securities, and in most cases on property of an objectionable character; wines, brandy, gin, haberdashery, soap, stationery, preserved provisions, assorted woollens and such like shop goods; the bonds have been most carelessly drawn and have seldom been properly witnessed. One loan of large amount has been made on goods which are not to be found at all. The whole account is in the greatest disorder and confusion, and the entire loss under this head will exceed 50,000 Rs. The balance shown in the "Bills suspense account," is close upon Three lakhs of Rupees, and no larger sum than *one and a half per cent.* is likely ever to be realized! The whole loss on the transactions of the Calcutta Branch of the Bank will not fall short of Rs. 3,40,000.

The defalcations of the late Secretary, Major Angelo, exhibited by false accounts and frau-

dulent transactions, are estimated at Rs. 140,620. Against this sum are to be placed 100 scrip from Major Angelo's securities of the value of 40,000 Rs. which have been impounded, and his household property to the value of 2,000 Rs. His transactions have been marked by an audacity of fraud which is altogether novel even in the history of Indian banking. Fortunately for him, he has placed himself beyond the reach of the Supreme Court by a voluntary exile to New South Wales, and it is not likely that he will venture to show himself in India, where he would be liable to transportation under the new Act for the punishment of breaches of trust. Colonel Ponsobly's name has been painfully mixed up with some of the most ugly transactions of the Secretary, but the Auditors have recorded their conviction that he, Col. Ponsobly, merely lent his name to Major Angelo, and in an incautious moment signed a pledge of 60 shares to the Delhi Bank, relying upon Major Angelo's good faith and honor. In addition to these losses, the loss on Agre Bank Scrip, and the anticipated loss on Oriental Bank Scrip is estimated as Rs. 18,381. The bad and doubtful loans are estimated at Rs. 2,82,520, making a sum total of Rs. 7,98,053, or one-fourth the capital of the Bank. The Shareholders, however, instead of repining at this deficiency, may consider themselves happy, that under the loose and all but dishonest system in which their affairs were conducted in Calcutta, and the daring profligacy of their Secretary, there is any portion of their Capital left them. The unfortunate Union Bank proprietors lost not only the whole of their stock, but half as much besides.

The following is the mode in which this loss is proposed to be made up. It appears that in addition to other varieties of fraud practised in this Bank, there were 274 shares assigned to parties without any equivalent; these it is proposed to cancel at par, which will reduce the Bank's capital to Rs. 27,05,500. The nominal value of this capital they propose to lower by one-fifth, so that each share shall represent 400 Rs. instead of 500 Rs. They thus obtain Rs. 5,33,100 towards the loss they have sustained. The Reserve fund is Rs. 79,860, and the profits to the 31st December 1850, according to the published accounts, amounted to Rs. 133,812; this, with the value of Major Angelo's shares standing in the name of Col. Ponsobly, and a slight indent on the profits of the current half year, will make up the full amount of "estimated" losses, and place the Bank on its legs again, though in a lower position. If the Shareholders are wise, they will cheerfully agree to forego the last half year's dividend. But when we remember that of the loans which represent the assets of the Bank, nearly one-fourth, or more than Four lakhs of Rupees, have been granted on the Shares of the Bank itself, that the value of other loans does not appear to be exactly known, that its liabilities are not stated, and that the state of the London Account is not yet disclosed, we are not sure that it would not be the wisest plan to wind up the whole concern, and return all that can be saved from the wreck to the Shareholders. It appears to be as difficult for a Bank, as for an author, to know when to stop.

**THE HURKAR'S ANGILOMANTIA.**—We never ceased to find any thing in the columns of the *Hurkar* but an uncompromising advocacy of an exclusive system of English education; but we have hitherto been led to expect that he would deal fairly and honestly with the arguments of those who differed from him. But in



the article which appeared on the subject of education in last Saturday's paper, he appears to have been so entirely carried away by his subject as to forget the respect due to his own character. He opens his article by charging the advocates of vernacular education, with being "hostile to any and every attempt to impart a knowledge of English to the natives," and he closes it by saying that "the aim of the vernacularists is to force the natives to be satisfied with vernacular education only." The *Herald*, in his calmer moments, cannot fail to perceive that this is a gross perversion of the views of the vernacularists. We challenge our contemporary to produce a single proof of the truth of this assertion at this Presidency. This journal has always stood forward as the warmest advocate of vernacular education; but neither have we, nor any of those who think with us on the subject, ever expressed the slightest wish that the languages of the country should be the exclusive medium of instruction. We have advocated with all the earnestness in our power, the bestowal of the very best English education on every Native youth who had leisure or opportunity for mastering it. We have applauded with all sincerity every effort made, either in connection with the state, or independently of it, to stand the cause of English education, and we have hailed with delight every symptom of success. But, at the same time we have asserted, and we continue to assert, that however English may be adapted for the upper ten or twenty thousand in society, the masses can receive knowledge only through the medium of their mother tongue; and that we are debtors to both classes. Supposing, what appears altogether beyond our utmost reach, that we could produce 50,000 natives so thoroughly imbued with European knowledge and so completely masters of the English tongue, that they could take up any English book and peruse it with ease and delight, and thus keep up and improve their knowledge of our literature all day, they have left the College or the School, &c., this would leave millions in a state of complete ignorance and degradation. But, even if there should be 10,000 natives at the end of the next ten years, who have reached this standard, we shall consider our institutions pre-eminently successful. We consider it impossible ever to eradicate the language of twenty-five millions of people, and if it cannot be eradicated, it ought to be made the medium of instruction to those who never can receive any knowledge but through its instrumentality. After a century of English education, the proportion of those who know English to those who know Bengalee, will be only one to two hundred. We consider therefore that we perform only half our duty if we confine our efforts to English instruction. One of the greatest results which was expected from the superior education given to a select number in English, was that they would thereby be able to enrich the vernacular tongue, and become the instruments of diffusing the knowledge they had acquired, through the language familiar to their countrymen. The more the Anglicists boast of the success of their system, in the ripeness of scholarship which the English students have attained, the stronger does the argument become for immediate efforts to disseminate this knowledge through the vernacular medium. But if we set our faces against all vernacular instruction,—that is, instruction exclusively vernacular,—we weaken one of the strongest arguments for training up the higher classes in English. A Collegiate education, to be of any national benefit, should be the nursery of National education.

**THE MYSTERIES OF CHERRA.—GRAND LIEB, CASE, WITH 50000 RS. DAMAGES.**—In an obscure Court of that obscure nook of the British Empire in India, called Cherra Poonjee, an important Libel case has just been disposed of by a Lieutenant of Infantry, which in our own land, would have called into exercise all the talent of Queen's Counsel, and all the acumen of the erminent Bench. The case, as we have been informed, stands thus: A coal Company has been in existence for some time, with the object of developing the resources of the Coesayah hills, and Mr. Gibson, a Civil Engineer, was their local agent. Two Coesayahs brought a demand against the Company in the Cherra Court for the ground rent of a depot. Mr. Gibson directed his Mooktyar to draw up a reply, stating that there were no papers in the office to indicate that his predecessors had made any agreement with these men for ground rent, that they had made no demand of Mr. Gibson for rent for four years, and that he did not believe they had any right to the land. The Mooktyar foisted into the answer the words that "the defendant believed Mr. Harry Inglis had bribed these two men to bring this unfounded charge against him." Mr. Gibson was not aware of the existence of these expressions, and signed the document. More than one gentleman was present when the Mooktyar read the reply, and they bear testimony that the name of Mr. Inglis was not mentioned in it. As soon as Mr. Gibson was made aware that these improper expressions had been used, he publicly retracted them in a document which was filed with the record of the suit; at the same time a letter certifying this retraction was delivered to Mr. Inglis. That gentleman, however, thought fit to bring an action for libel against Mr. Gibson, in the Assistant's Court at Cherra Poonjee and laid his damages at 10,000 Rs. We have just received information that the Assistant has decided the case against Mr. Gibson, and condemned him to damages to the amount of FIVE THOUSAND RUPEES.

Such a decision is perfectly unparalleled in the annals of our Courts, and to suppose that it can be allowed to stand for a moment, would be a reflection on the Company's tribunals such as their bitterest enemy has not yet inflicted on them. Happily, the appeal from this case lies direct to the Sudder, and in their sense of justice and equity, we have the most perfect confidence.

The case ought not to have been tried in the Cherra Court at all. It is an open question whether Act XI. 1836, commonly called the Black Act, extends to the non regulation provinces. But even if it does in its fullest extent, there are circumstances connected with the plaintiff and the defendant, which render it imperative to change the venue, and remit the cognizance of this suit to some tribunal not under the influence of local circumstances. The plaintiff, Mr. Inglis, is engaged in the preparation and exportation of Sylhet Lime, of which his father had enjoyed almost a monopoly for nearly half a century. Mr. Gibson, who has quitted the service of the Coal Company, has recently entered into the same trade as a competitor. Mr. Inglis has been engaged for more than twenty years in the most extensive mercantile speculations in the Coesayah hills and their vicinity, and till lately was permitted by the Government to unite the office of trader with that of Assistant Political Agent at Cherra. He is also closely allied to the family of the Commissioner, and he possesses greater influence throughout the Hills than any unofficial man enjoys in any part of

India. We do not mean to insinuate for a moment that this influence has ever been employed in any case brought by or against him in the Court; but we affirm without the fear of contradiction, that the influence of Mr. Inglis is so extensive, and the dread of his power so profound and so universal, and the timidity of the native character so great, that no case in which he is interested, has the remotest chance of an equitable decision at Cherra. It was on this ground that a complaint which Mr. Inglis recently instituted against the Jyatsah Raja, was transferred to the Court of Mymensing. The present case also must be transferred to some neighbouring district, if the British Government wishes to uphold its character for justice and equity.

The Government of Bengal has much to learn, and much to unlearn, regarding the proceedings at Cherra. Nothing can be more glaring than the false impression under which it now labors regarding that station. Insignificant though Cherra may be, a revelation of the true state of things, would probably create an odium the weight of which would fall heavily on those who have been so egregiously hood-winked.

**THE SUMACHAR DEPUTY.**—We are happy to perceive that this Native journal has been revived. It was the first newspaper ever published in the Bengalee language, the first number having issued from this Press on the 23d of May 1818. For twenty-one years it continued to be published only in the vernacular tongue, but the growing passion for English among the Natives induced the Editor in 1839, to give an English version of it in a parallel column, just at the time when the great discussions arose regarding the abolition of the rite of Suttee. It was discontinued in 1841, or rather transferred to a native editor in Calcutta, in whose hands it soon drooped and died. The Editors of the *Satyra Prasep*, a Bengalee journal set up some last year, have undertaken to merge that paper in the *Sumachar Durpan*, and the first two numbers are now before us. The task of giving articles in juxtaposition in two languages so entirely dissimilar in structure and idiom, is one of the most arduous that can be conceived, and we think the conductors deserve no little credit for the success, with which they have performed it. The zeal and ability which their labors display, will, we feel confident, ensure them a large and increasing circulation. To the English student of Bengalee, and the Bengalee student of English, such a weekly journal cannot but prove of the greatest assistance, and we would earnestly recommend all our European friends who are anxious to promote the improvement of the natives around them, and to awaken and gratify a spirit of enquiry among them, as well as those who are endeavoring to master the vernacular tongue, to encourage this master spirited undertaking. The pecuniary return from the paper cannot of course be in the smallest degree commensurate with the mental and physical toil it involves, but however scanty this remuneration may be, the conviction that the labors of the Editors are appreciated by "a discerning public" cannot fail to give animation and hope to their efforts.

**RECORDS OF THE INDIAN COMMAND OF SIR C. J. NAPIER.**—We have received a copy of Mr. Maffson's long promised work, and we must confess we were at first very, very unreasonably disappointed. We had expected to find, in addition to the military records, a number of those piquant and pointed letters which Sir Charles























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# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL, PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMERS  
"ORIENTAL," DUE AT PORT CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that  
the Mails for Benar, and the Intermediate Ports  
between Calcutta, Agra, Poona, Singapore and Hong-  
kong, intended for transmission by the Peninsula  
and Oriental Company's Steam Vessels, will be  
closed at this Office, on Monday, the 24th Proximo,  
and that an after packet will be despatched hence  
on Tuesday, the 25th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to  
ensure its arrival at Kedgey, in time to reach the  
Steamer. The public are particularly requested to ob-  
serve that no letters for the Orient can be received  
after 3 P. M. of that date.

M. BURTON REWET,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, India May, 1851.

**MR. ANSTET'S MOTION FOR A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN INDIA.**—The ignorance of the House of Commons of all matters connected with the Government and people of India has long been proverbial, but we have never had such unequivocal evidence of the fact as on the present occasion, when a member of the House ventured to occupy its attention with a speech in which almost every assertion was perfectly groundless. We fully believe that Mr. Anstey acted from conscientious, if not benevolent motives, but he is utterly unacquainted with the subject he discusses, and has allowed himself to become the dupe of those *soi-disant* patriots and philanthropists, whose chief dependence is on the ignorance and credulity of others. We fully agree with Mr. Anstey in the necessity of a rigid and comprehensive enquiry into the working of the government of India, before the Act of 1833 is renewed or modified, though not by a commission deputed to India: but few of the reasons which he has assigned for this scrutiny, will stand a moment's examination. We shall briefly pass them in review. He desired to call the attention of the House to a document signed by 100,000 natives of Madras, in which they used these expressions:—"We are the people of this country, inheriting this land for thousands of generations. From our industry it is supplied—by our arms it is defended from foreign foes—by our loyal obedience to the established Government its peace and safety are maintained." There are a great many gentlemen from Madras in London, and Mr. Anstey might easily have learned from any of them that this paper was of European manufacture; that any number of signatures may be obtained to any thing at Madras; that there are not half this number able to write their names, nor a tenth able to comprehend the scope of so magnificent and eloquent a sentence. In our further comments on this paper, we shall confine our remarks to this Presidency, which comprises the Gangetic valley, and contains thirty millions of people, and yields a revenue of sixteen millions. "Nine-tenths of the agricultural population of India were annually sold up by the Company's Collectors as defaulters, the Collectors preferring this mode to that of imprisoning the wretched creatures, simply because if they were imprisoned, the Company would have to feed them in prison." To any one in India, it would appear perfectly redundant to notice so monstrous an assertion; it has only to be mentioned to be refuted; yet there are not wanting people at home to whom it is all gospel, and we may just state for their illumination that the amount of arrears in a land revenue of eight millions sterling, according to the last returns before us, for which it was found necessary to resort to

the sale of the estate, was not five per cent. Mr. Anstey might moreover have used the natural powers of reason with which he is endowed, and calculated that if nine-tenths of the whole agricultural population are sold up every year, then every man must be sold up nine times in ten years, which is an absurdity. The house tax he alludes to, is a municipal tax in towns for the expense of watch and ward, and does not exceed 4s. a year on the largest, and four pence a year on the smaller houses; certainly, no very grievous impost. We have no tax on trades, and none upon mills, as he asserts; and none whatever on tobacco, and the tobacco is as good as any which has been grown in India since the discovery of America, and might be improved to an indefinite extent if the natives had any spirit whatever in them. As to the Salt tax; the Government imposes a duty for the purpose of revenue at the rate of five shillings upon every 80 lbs. of this article, whether manufactured or imported, and the tax falls lighter on the people, and is collected with less oppression than any other equally productive impost could be. Mr. Anstey says, "The unhappy Hindoo is even prohibited from evaporating salt for his own use, from the sea waters that washed his wretched hut, under the penalty of imprisonment for not less than twelve months or a fine of 100 Rs." And we say: "The unhappy Englishman is even prohibited from raising a single leaf of tobacco for his own use, in his own little garden, under the severest penalties." As to the remark that "the salt manufacturers were a tribe of natives who had received the mockery of freedom upon the tenure of following this occupation in those desolate marshes where hundreds of them fell victims every year to the pestilence, the flood, and the tyger," it would be difficult to condense a greater amount of misrepresentation in a smaller number of words. The salt manufacturers have never been emancipated, simply because they have never been in bondage; they have lived from time immemorial in the Sunderbuns, notwithstanding the pestilence, the flood and the tyger, and they enter of their own accord into agreements for making salt, which are so profitable to them, that when Government recently abolished one agency in these desolate marshes, the people complained bitterly of the injustice of taking the privilege from them. Again "it has been solemnly attested by witnesses of the highest scientific eminence that to the salt monopoly was chiefly owing the outbreak and continuance of the cholera." It is really difficult to allude to such an assertion with gravity; we really mean no disrespect to those "eminent scientific men," who have held this doctrine, when we assert that they are the most eminent donkeys the profession has ever seen. Why, the monopoly existed in its height, years before the cholera was known, and it has always been most virulent where there has been no salt monopoly at all. Mr. Anstey proceeds to say that the natives of India, "themselves wholly averse to the cultivation of opium, were absolutely forced into its growth by the Company." The very reverse of this is the truth. The efforts of the Company have always been directed to check the growth of Opium; the investment of the year has been most strictly limited. It was the natives who some time back forced a large

supply on the state, and constrained Government to enlarge the cultivation, and it is in compliance with the wishes of the people, that the Court of Directors have at length, reluctantly, allowed them to mine as much as they chose within the year. "Tobacco was so completely in the hands of the Company that they not only determined where it should and where it should not be grown, but fixed the price under which no vendor was permitted to sell it." We cannot speak for the Madras Presidency, where we believe there is a tax on tobacco, as there is in England, but throughout this Presidency, among sixty millions of people, the cultivation is as free as that of grain. We have heard that the whole revenue obtained from tobacco in India, is only 90,000*l.*; in England, it is three millions and a half sterling. Then, "all the minor monopolies of bees' wax and such articles were put up to sale and purchased by the highest bidder. Those were the sources of the revenue of British India for which nine-tenths of the community were annually sold up and reduced to ruin"—which only shows that Mr. Anstey knows as much about the revenue system of India as he does about that of Japan. Strange to say, after he has taxed his powers to the utmost to denounce the Government of India for ruining the people by the weight of taxation, he turns round and reproaches it for not making that taxation heavier. "The annual revenue of India under our Government," he tells us, "has never exceeded 20 millions, but under former dynasties, it yielded an easy revenue of never less than 30 millions per annum!"

Mr. Anstey now comes to the Black Acts, which he tells us were actually passed last year, whereas the consideration of them has been postponed till the Criminal Code is completed. He also informs us that those Acts have been disallowed by the Board of Control, though, if he had known anything whatever about the matter, he would have said that they have been fully approved of by the great "I by myself!" who presides at that Board, and makes war or peace according to his own sweet will. He then proceeds to state that the object of the Law Commission was to raise "the colored population to an equality with the freeman"—that is by encumbering every district Court in India with the interminable and intolerable forms of English law,—but the Indian Government thought it more convenient to secure equality by degrading the Englishman to the level of the black man." We will not load this article by any attempt to refute a sophistry which has been so often repeated, but proceed to the next sentence. "Hence, trial by Jury and all publicity in the administration of justice were denied them." Why, one of the Acts promulgated at the same time with the Black Acts, was intended to give the Europeans and Natives trial by jury, in criminal cases; and as to publicity, the courts are as much open to the public in India as they are in England. Then comes on the case of the great contractor, Jotee Persad, with which Mr. Anstey had been crammed for the occasion, and he told the House with all gravity, what the papers had told the public in this country, that Jotee Persad had bought an action against Government for an enormous sum; and that the Company immediately commenced, not a cross ac-

tion, but a prosecution against him in their own Court for forgery and falsification of documents, and in all probability, he would be tried, convicted and condemned to death—as Nundkoomar had been,—before his action could come on. But, it was the Company who first commenced an action for fraud and forgery against Jotee Peral, and Jotee Peral, who then commenced a counter action against the Company; and Mr. Anstey will bear with grateful surprise that he has not been hung at all, but has come off with flying colors, in the Company's own Court, and has rewarded his legal adviser with a fee which would make any barrister's mouth water—£30,000—an uncontradicted report has it.

This article has extended so much beyond our original design, that we have left ourselves little room for any remarks on the speeches of other members. Sir James Hogg, in a very able speech, defended the Company, and with great success, from many of the groundless charges which had been brought against them; and he gave the public the gratifying information that the Court of Directors had sanctioned the appropriation of Half a Million Sterling for those works of irrigation in the Punjab, which Lord Dalhousie had only been able to approve of, conditionally, these works, of £100,000 a year, for five years. He also stated that "a return would be laid on the table of the House in a week, giving the fullest information with respect to every matter relating to India. It would form an abstract of the History of India, political, military, commercial and statistical." We shall be most happy to see this India House history of India; but the real History of India cannot be written while the Hon. Company continues to administer its affairs. Sir James, after accusing Mr. Anstey of saying that "every thing connected with India was secret, that there were no means of obtaining information," said that "he was quite mistaken."

With respect to "information on India, the fullest information" to be obtained at the India House." How far Sir James was justified in hazarding this assertion, let the following letter from the Court of Directors, which Sir James had himself signed at the India House, only four days before, testify:—

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT,  
No. 9 of 1851.

OUR GOVERNOR OF THE PRESIDENT OF FORT WILLIAM  
IN REPLY.

Public Letter, dated 17th July, No. 35, 1850.

"Transmitting an application from Mr. John G. Marshman, requesting the Court's permission to consult the records of Government, previous to the year 1850, with a view to the completion of the subject of the 'History of the Serampore Press' to the request of Mr. Marshman, who has been previously informed (with reference to Court's decision) that we feel we cannot give him the records of Government, which he may require to the same end as he has addressed to that Authority, of respectability, and who has rendered much good service to the cause of education and popular literature."

"While, however, we cannot allow Mr. Marshman to have access to the records of Government, with the view of obtaining materials for his work, we authorize you to supply him with a copy of the records of Government, which he may require to the same end as he has addressed to that Authority, of respectability, and who has rendered much good service to the cause of education and popular literature."

"We are, Sir, (84) JOHN SPEERDEN, and 15 OTHER DIRECTORS.  
London, 20th March, 1851.  
(True Copy)

Under Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

We asked the Court of Directors for no information of a later date than the year 1850; for none which could compromise the character of the present generation of Directors, only two of whom were elected before 1831. The information we wished to obtain belonged to the history of an age long since past, not to the poli-

tics of the present age. Yet, we are forbidden all access to the records of Government; and are moreover informed, that it is an established rule at the India House to refuse permission to consult their archives. As to the offer of any document we might name which the local Government did not consider it objectionable to give, the Directors must have known that it was utterly valueless, for it was impossible to say what documents would be required without examination. The local authorities, moreover, knowing the repugnance which their Honourable Masters felt to anything like pernicious publicity, even in reference to the historical transactions of their Government, would have acted most discreetly in refusing any document whatever, lest it should compromise them. What confidence can be placed after this in any statement of Sir James Hogg, on any Indian question, in the House of Commons? The Government of India is a Government of secrecy in a stronger sense than any other Government now in existence. The first principle of the India House is to conceal everything—everything past, present or future—from the public, which it has the power of withholding. It is a benevolent and a beneficent despotism, but still the most perfect despotism which the world has ever seen, and secrecy is one of the primary elements of this despotism. The Directors have governed India well, better indeed than any body of men have ever governed so large and so distant a possession in any age of the world; but, the government is based on the principles of Oriental secrecy and despotism, not of Anglo-Saxon freedom and publicity.

JUGUNNATH.—The following draft of a brief Act which appeared in the last *Calcutta Gazette*, will probably bring the long discussed question of the connection of Government with the shrine of Jugunnath to a final, and we trust a satisfactory, issue:—

"Whereas, notwithstanding the prohibition to exact taxes and fees from pilgrims, by Act X. 1840, fees and offerings are taken of pilgrims resorting to the temple therein mentioned, for the use of the priests and others belonging to the said temple, over which no effectual control can be had, except by the attempt to be made by Government. It is declared and enacted as follows:—  
I. Act X. 1840 is repealed; but so as to revive any Regulation or part of any Regulation thereby repealed.  
II. No tax, fee or payment of any kind shall be taken on behalf of the Government from any pilgrim resorting to the said temple, or other place of pilgrimage.  
III. Nothing contained in Section XXX. Regulation XII. 1840 of the Bengal Code, or in any other Regulation or Act, shall be construed to bind the Government to make or continue any donation for support of the said temple.  
IV. Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to forbid any person or persons, having the charge or superintendence of or officiating at said temple, from taking their accustomed fees and offerings."

A short reference to the history of our interference with this temple appears necessary to put the reader in possession of the real merits of the case. In the first settlement of the newly acquired province of Cuttack, it was provided that all survey duties should cease with the exception of "the duties levied from pilgrims at Jugunnath;" and that all persons should revert to Government after the decease of the present incumbent, but that "this was not to be construed as authorizing the resumption of the established donation for the support of the temple of Jugunnath." Regulation IV. of 1806 ordains that "a tax shall be levied on the part of Government (as was done before under the late Mahattria Government) on pilgrims resorting to this shrine." This tax was to be considered as including the usual fees of the officers of the temple, who were strictly prohibited from making any demands for money. It did not, however, include the fee to which the Fundahs, or pilgrim hunters, were entitled, in conformity with established usage, from the pilgrims. This enactment was subsequently

repealed, and the superintendence of the temple was vested in the Raja of Khoorda, while the collection of the tax was entrusted to an officer with the official designation of the "Collector of the tax on pilgrims."

The connection of Government with the shrine was from the very first precarious, and was intended by increasing the public revenue. It was calculated that after paying the establishment of the temple of Jugunnath, a sum varying from half a lakh to a lakh of Rupees would remain to the credit of the state. In process of time, however, this mode of increasing the public resources from the revenues of superstition, as well as the minute interference of the officers of the State in the internal economy of this idolatrous shrine, appeared to compromise the character of Government, and the most strenuous efforts were made to induce the Court of Directors to relinquish all connection with it. These efforts at length became successful, and Act X. of 1840, abolished the pilgrim tax, and transferred the conduct and management of the affairs of Jugunnath to the Raja of Khoorda. Strange to say, Lord Auckland, who was at the time at Calcutta, rejected the advice of the Council of Calcutta, and determined to continue the donation, which had been paid out of the tax. At the same time, the Act strictly forbade the Raja of Khoorda to demand the "usual fees." It ordained that he should not receive or allow to be received by any person connected with the temple, any payment, other than such voluntary payment as may be freely offered from any person resorting to the temple for the performance of religious ceremonies. This arrangement prevented the anomaly of sadding Government with the payment of a large monthly donation, while it cut off the source from which it had been derived for thirty-five years. It transferred the superintendence of the temple of Jugunnath and its internal economy to the Raja of Khoorda, and at the same time deprived him of the power exercised by every other superintendent of every other temple in India, of fixing his own value on the religious privilege enjoyed by the pilgrims, and demanding whatever fee he thought fit. The Act, as might have been expected, failed to give any satisfaction; and it has been the subject of angry discussion from that time to the present. About five years ago, the question was brought before the Supreme Council, and the donation was cut down to about Rs. 26,000, but the restriction imposed on the Raja of exacting fees was not repealed. It is understood that the Court of Directors have now taken up the subject again, and forced it upon the consideration of the Council, who have, at length, adopted the right course, after fifty-five years of perverse policy. The Act before us is intended to restore to the Khoorda Raja the right, of which he had been deprived, of demanding fees from the pilgrims; and it leaves Government at liberty at any future time to stop the donation. The fee which the Raja and the officers of the temple are thus legally permitted to demand, cannot be less than three times the value of the donation. The Act affirms that the prohibition to exact taxes and fees from pilgrims, had been evaded; and that no effectual control can be had, or ought to be attempted to be had, over the fees and offerings; it declares that no tax, fee or payment of any kind shall be taken on behalf of Government; but that the person or persons having the charge or superintendence of the temple, are not forbidden to take their accustomed fees and offerings. Thus a question which has agitated the Christian community of England, and

the councils of Government for so many years, has been settled in a manner which appears, on the whole, equitable and satisfactory; and Government is left at liberty, to relieve itself from the odium it has so long incurred by its connection with this shrine, while those fees and taxes, which were hitherto taken in contravention of the laws, are now legalized and confirmed.

But, something more remains to be done to render the settlement of the question perfectly equitable. If when the pilgrim tax was abolished, Lord Auckland had followed the advice of his Council and discontinued the donation from the state, and at the same time allowed the Raja of Khoorda to fix his own scale of fees from pilgrims, as every other proprietor of every other shrine is at liberty to do throughout India, no one could have arraigned the justice of the proceeding, but the Governor General publicly recognized the obligation of Government to make a monthly donation from the public revenues for the expenses of the state. We have always been of opinion that no such obligation could be made out from any previous treaty, or arrangement. The donation was paid from the pilgrim tax, and ought equitably to have ceased with the discontinuance of that tax; but, the absolute and unreserved decision of the highest authority in British India, constituted an obligation from that date, from which we cannot now be exonerated. Again, when the subject was brought under discussion five years after, and the Members of Council saw acknowledged this obligation, although they reduced the amount—they gave it all the validity of a formal compact, to which the faith of the British Government of India was pledged.

Mr. Millett was one of the Members of Council at the time, and though he was among the most strenuous opponents of the British connection with Juggunnath, he considered Government bound to pay the reduced allowance, after a most careful and most impartial investigation of the subject. Under these circumstances, it appears to us necessary to the vindication of our own character for justice and integrity, that whenever Government may proceed to cut off the annual donation, an equitable compensation in money should be given to the proprietor of the temple. It is said, that the Raja of Khoorda has been in the habit of exacting from the pilgrims every farthing that could be squeezed out of them, and that the cessation of the Government tax has brought them little, if any, relief. We have the most perfect confidence in this statement; we believe that the priests have extorted the last corru from the unfortunate devotees, though they have done it illegally; but this fact was fully known to the Government of India in 1845, when the new arrangement was made, and the donation per-  
petuated.

**STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH THE EAST AND CHINA.**—The last Mail brings us the very gratifying intelligence, that a Committee has been appointed by the House of Commons on the motion of Lord Jocelyn, "to enquire into the existing steam communication with India and China, and into the practicability of effecting any improvement therein; and also into the best mode of establishing steam communication between England, India, China, Australia and New Zealand, or any of them, as well as any points upon the several routes between them." Lord Jocelyn deserves the thanks of the public and more particularly of the community in the East, for his active interference to prevent our being added for ten years to

come with an odious and costly monopoly of steam communication. There is nothing, after all, like a Parliamentary Committee for eliciting the truth, and preventing mischief. From the Committee now appointed, we may confidently look for a collection of all the information available regarding the new and important science of ocean steam navigation, which may almost be considered as the creation of the last ten years. They will receive evidence from the various Companies which have embarked with so much success in these undertakings; and give us an impartial view of the speed of their vessels, the fares they charge, and the remuneration which they derive from their speculations. From these various sources we shall be enabled to form a comparative estimate of the benefits or disadvantages connected with their respective plans and proceedings; and the House of Commons and Government will be able to make new arrangements for the steam navigation of the eastern hemisphere with the fullest information before them; and we shall not have our interests compromised by any hole and corner contract. The investigation and the disclosures which may be made by the Committee, will have the effect of drawing public attention to the subject, and creating, we trust, that spirit of competition, in which alone lies our safety. If, however, it should appear that from the shortness of the time which the present contracts have to run, there is no room for the admission of rivalry, then it is to be hoped, that this public spirited nobleman and the Committee, will be enabled to make those provisions which are necessary for the protection of the community. If Government creates a monopoly of steam communication in the Eastern seas by granting a large bonus to a single Company, it is bound to place the whole economy of the Steamers under the same control and restrictions, to which the various Railways are subject in England.

The P. and O. Company have now entered in good earnest on the line from Calcutta to the Straits and China; and they have thereby done much to regain that public confidence which had been weakened by neglect in the older line, and by the treacherous answer which their Secretary, Mr. Howell, has been instructed to make to the remonstrances of the public. The establishment of this line, though intended to give the Peninsular Company the great benefit of a priority of occupation, will be eminently conducive to the interests of the mercantile community. The terms both of freight and passage money, however, appear to have been pitched too high. Twenty-eight Rupees for a chest of opium which the clipper have been in the habit of taking for 12 Rs.—we think this is the charge—appears to us to be a sacrifice of the permanent interests of the Company for a temporary gain. It is fixed at a scale which must inevitably bring competition, either from America or from England. The navigation laws have ceased, and the Americans are making the most rapid advances in the creation of a sea going steam navy, and we should not be surprised to see them ere long in the field. The trip of the *Erin*, a vessel of 1000 tons burden, to China, and back again, will probably realize 40,000 Rupees; and she will be able to accomplish six such voyages in the course of a twelve month. The problem therefore which the Peninsular and Oriental Company may be said to have thus proposed to the Steam Companies on both sides of the Atlantic is, whether a steamer of such burden will yield an adequate remuneration, if she earns £24,000 in the year. Besides, this vessel has only taken one-third of

the monthly supply of opium, and under the new arrangements which have now been made regarding the cultivation of the drug, it is not improbable that the annual investment will rise to 40,000 chests, in which case there will be constant employment for four such vessels.

**ANOTHER VESSEL BURNED.**—The crime of ship burning appears likely to have a local habitation in the Calcutta Calendar. Within two months, we have had occasion to record the burning of the old East Indian ship *Swickhausen*, and the emigrant ship *Kierwansey*, and now we have to record the total destruction of the opium clipper *Ariel* by the same means. This vessel left Calcutta on Sunday, the 11th March, and on the 18th was anchored three miles to the South of the lower floating Light. The fire broke out about eight o'clock in the morning of that day, and the Commander, Burt, instantly went forward to discover its origin. The mate made the same attempt, but they were both driven back by the heat and smoke. Water was thrown upon the flames, and meanwhile the boats were lowered, and two lady passengers who were on board, were banded into them. Some of the crew attempted to follow, but they were driven back by the Captain, who was determined not to abandon the ship until it was evidently certain that nothing could be saved. With the assistance of Mr. Ranom, the Pilot, a single chest of opium was removed, but the fire had by this time reached such a height, that it was impossible to remain any longer on board, more especially as some three hundred bags of salt-petre were stowed aft, and were expected every moment to explode. The Captain and the two mates, who remained to the last, then left the ship, and were brought to Calcutta by the *Corry*.

According to the evidence adduced before the Junior Magistrate, the fire originated in the forepeak, where the hawsers, dunn, tar, and other combustible materials were stowed away, and it is stated, that the Serang saw what he believed to be a ball of fire in the forepeak. To this Serang, of course, suspicion would naturally attach, but he has been many years with Captain Burt, who declares that he has not the slightest suspicion of his honesty. One man, a Portuguese, declared that he heard a laconic confession to a woman that he had originated the fire, but his evidence was unsupported, and the confession is not in itself particularly probable. The *Ariel* had a cargo of opium, and was insured to the extent of more than Eight lakhs of Rupees, or Eighty thousand pounds.

To discover the origin of these fires has now become an object of the first, and we may say of vital, necessity to the merchants and underwriters of Calcutta. It is absolutely impossible, that this incessant destruction of valuable property can go on much longer without seriously affecting the stability of the Calcutta Insurance Offices, who are already sufferers by the three vessels destroyed, to the extent, we should suppose, of nearly £200,000. It is evident that they are themselves aware that this is the case, as on the occasion of the loss of the *Kierwansey*, they forwarded a petition to Government, entreating that the Legislative Council would take the matter into consideration. The Bengal Office, however, oppressed by the incessant accumulation of papers, has not found time even to acknowledge the receipt of the petition, and has, it is reported, referred the matter to the Marine Authorities. An answer will probably be received from the office in a few months, and meanwhile the Insurance of

flow are exerting themselves on their own account. They have offered a reward of Rs. 10,000 to any person or persons who shall produce evidence sufficient to convict the incendiaries, and we may hope that the prospect of this large reward will induce some of the lacars to turn approvers. The punishment of the incendiaries in this particular case is, however, a question of minor importance. The real object now is to discover by what means Act XXVII. of 1850, commonly called the Registry Act, can now be modified, so as to put a stop to the crime which now threatens so seriously to affect the commercial activity of the Port. That Act was passed, with the view of bringing the traffic of the ports of the three Presidencies under more strict regulation, and of releasing the lacars from the intolerable oppression of their Serangs. The latter object has been attained, at least partially, but in the former respect, the Act has not only proved a failure, but would seem to have given additional incentives to crime. Even if it should be proved that the practice of ship-burning has no connection with the Registry Act, it is evident that it requires a radical modification to meet the new species of crime which has apparently arisen under its present provisions. The public authorities appear to imagine that there are great difficulties in the way; and so there may be, but surely the general principle of the legislation required, is plain enough. Every lascar who ships on board a vessel must be made to feel that it cannot possibly be for his advantage that the ship should be lost or burnt. At present, the men secure the two or three months' advance which has been paid them, burn the vessel, return to Calcutta, and after standing the ordeal of a short Police enquiry, are absorbed among their associates, until another opportunity offers itself for repeating the same lucrative course of crime. We feel much diffidence in offering any suggestion, because there may be many practical objections which do not occur to us, but we think some such plan as the following might be easily and justly adopted. Let it be an invariable rule that every lascar shall be shipped exclusively through the Registry office, and whenever a vessel with lacars on board, is set on fire before she has reached the open sea, let the whole of her native crew be compelled to work out the time for which they have received advances, in picking oakum, under the surveillance of the police. This measure would strike at the very root of the evil, viz. the hope entertained by the lacars of pocketing their advances without labor. They would lose their kit and gain nothing by their advances.

**THE DISSEMINATION ACT.**—We regret that we have not before noticed some information upon the progress of the Indian Dissemmer's Marriage Act, which was published in the *Herald* of the 12th May, in the shape of a private letter from Dr. Duff. It will be found among our selections, together with our contemporary's remarks, but the hopeful tone he assumes seems to us to be scarcely warranted by the facts. Dr. Duff paid a visit in the beginning of March, to the Royal Commissioners to enquire into the progress of the Draft Act, and saw Sir Edward Ryan, late Chief Justice of this Presidency. Sir Edward informed him that the Draft Act, after being sent out to Calcutta had been returned with sundry proposed alterations, and would shortly be despatched to the Court of Directors, who would forward it once more to Calcutta. A few days afterwards, Dr. Duff

was informed that the document was positively to be sent to the India House immediately, and there it will probably remain for further consideration. We suppose we must congratulate those of our readers who, like ourselves, feel an interest in the question, upon the progress of the Act, if progress it can be called, and advise them to obey that Scriptural precept, which was evidently intended for the East, to "possess their souls in patience." The history of this Act is one of the most remarkable instances of the passive resistance of circumstances,—the real *vis inertia*,—which the annals of India present. With the exception of the Bishop of Calcutta and a few of his clergy, no one in India is opposed to its provisions; all the Governments of the different Presidencies are desirous that it should be passed; the Court of Directors are favourable to it, and the Board of Control, is not unfavourable to it, though, like Gallo, "it cares for none of these things," and yet the Act is still in the future. It is handled about from Calcutta to London, and from London to Calcutta, from the Legislative Council to the Royal Commissioners, and from the Royal Commissioners to the Legislative Council, and nothing is done. Argument has been exhausted in its favour, and scarcely a word has been uttered against it in India or England, and yet the Act sleeps. What is wanting in this, and in other cases, is a strong Parliamentary ventilation, and upon this question we hope to enter next week.

**PRIZE OF £300.**—With reference to the notice given in one of our former numbers, we are requested to intimate that the University of Edinburgh has declined the offer of a prize to be awarded by that body for the best Treatise on the Hindu Systems of Philosophy. The proposer of the premium will, however, endeavour to find some other public body to undertake the task of adjudication.

**THE DEBTS OF THE BENGAL ARMY.**—We now resume and conclude our notice of the letter of the Bengal Subaltern on this important subject.—The next question to which he asks the Governor General's attention as a cause of debt, is the mismanagement of *Messes*. The writer "truly believes a good mess to be invaluable; a bad one he knows to be ruinous." He states "that he is acquainted with two-thirds of the messes in the army, and that only a small portion of these are well conducted, and that from the data afforded by them, he is of opinion that a mess can be made advantageous to officers in every respect; on the other hand, from data afforded by the majority, he believes that he can prove a cause to every soul that has ought to do with it." A proposal is now before the army, or rather, before the commanding officers of regiments to render the establishment of them compulsory; and we have thus had occasion recently to discuss the subject. Our own observations entirely concur with the experience of the Bengal Subaltern. When we looked at the effect of messes generally, and remembered that the great majority of them were at present ill conducted, and that an ill conducted mess, can prove "a curse," and has proved "a curse," we could not venture to recommend the extension of the system to the army in general. On this point, on which the question appears to us to turn, is whether a mess adds to the embarrassments of the officers, or not. Whatever may be the general or the social advantages of a mess, if it be found to inflict a greater outlay on an officer than he would incur in a private mess, those advantages are infinitely overbalanced by that single evil, and the mess becomes a "curse." Before Government can form any correct decision on the subject, it is indispensable that a return of the expense for one year of every mess, and of the number of officers connected with it, and of their individual share of its charges, as well as the amount of its debts, should be drawn up for the per-

son of comparison. Before, moreover, means be made obligatory, a judicious system of management must be devised, and provision made for a half yearly report of the result of every mess, and its actual pecuniary position." The same, in fact, may be said in regard to debt, and it would be an immense crime if Government were to adopt any measure which would add a single farthing to this enormous sum.

The writer then proceeds to discuss the Courts of Requests, which he considers inimical to the best interests of the army, so much so indeed as to be classed as one great cause of the debt. His reasons are, however, as foreign to the subject in hand, as the debts of the army—one of the most important considerations connected with them, viz. the total absence of all salutary check upon the institution of false and fraudulent claims. The honor of every officer in the army ought to be placed at once under the safeguard of these Courts; and they should have the power to inflict a severe and salutary fine on every plaintiff who wantonly compromised the honor of any officer by bringing him on false, fraudulent, or inefficient grounds into a Court of Requests.

But if this point. These Courts have cognizance of claims to the extent of 400 Rs. incurred within six or seven years. "It is an invitation to tradesmen to give officers credits, and the willingness of the tradesman to do so, offers a temptation to officers to incur debt." The Bengal Subaltern proposes to cure this evil, by depriving tradesmen of the power to sue after a period of three months has elapsed since the debt was incurred. He fully believes that such a law would prevent any Subaltern's getting credit to the extent of more than a tenth of the present limit. The suggestion is most valuable, and we sincerely hope it will receive all that attention which the importance of the subject and of the proposal demand. Such a provision would unquestionably be an act of the greatest compassion to the officers, and rescue many a "stagnant" from the hands of the tradesman who allows him credit beyond his means, under the fallacious hope of not being called on to repay the amount before the end of ten years; it permits the interest to accumulate till the sum approaches the limit for which this summary suit can be instituted, and finally apply to the Court of Requests for payment, which is then no longer postponing the demand, is decal as a matter of course. Such an enactment would be no injustice to the tradesman, because it would leave him every other legal remedy against the debtor, except the short, simple, and unexpensive process of a military Court. Besides, when the tradesman was thus happily relieved from the chance of bad and long standing debt, by being compelled to demand payment within three months, he might afford to take off one or two hundred per cent. of the profit he now charges. These Courts of Requests, which were intended only to secure justice to creditors, have proved a source of the greatest injustice to debtors; and may be pronounced, most emphatically, one of the greatest curses of the Bengal army. "The amount," says the writer, "cut monthly from a Subaltern's pay is usually in round numbers, 100 Rs. If there were only stoppages such men underwent, how are they to live as becomes their rank and station on the main?" Nor must it be forgotten that an officer who is thus brought down from time to time, before a Court and forced to pay his debts, must become an object of contempt to "the respectable portion of the sepoys he commands." Nothing compromises a man's dignity in the eyes of the natives so irreparably as a civil action for his just debts.

But it is for the *Mofful* Banks that the Bengal Subaltern reserves the force of his denunciations. He has told us before how he was "done" by the ninth part of a man, and how he had recourse to a Bank to escape the tailor, and his feelings are evidently embittered by his recollections of that unfortunate transaction. But it is for the future health of the army that he is pleading when he says: "It is of the army that he is pleading when he says: 'the ninth part of a man'—the man whose daily debt, the substance of the Bengal army has withdrawn away, never to be restored to life. The good those Banks have effected, is as difficult to find as the needle in the bundle of hay; the evil they have committed is without parallel; we pattern in the history of any society of equal magnitude with the only man"



whose members, these institutions have had their premature births, dragged in their monstrous and unnatural sustenance, and will, I firmly hope, meet with their ignominious death." He then proceeded to show, 1st, that the Banks are rotten in constitution, and must be fatal to all who are connected with them; 2dly, that they foster extravagance and debt, and 3dly, that they have trammelled the free action and martial spirit of the army. As to the first point, it has been fully realized, I am sure, by all the Banks, the shareholders of which now regret ever having had anything to do with them. We are not however going to expose ourselves to the risk of an action for libel, by predising any thing of the kind regarding the remainder of these Institutions. But there can be no doubt that the system of debt has become more extensive with the facilities which have arisen for borrowing, and that although some officers were more deeply in debt, before Mutual Banks existed, a far greater number are now under pecuniary obligations, and monthly stoppages; and that the state of the army, generally, has been severely comforted by the use of credit, and has become fearfully deteriorated. Formerly, the question was, whether an officer was in debt or not; now the first enquiry is, how much he owes, and, if any one is able to say he owes no man anything, he is considered a singularly lucky exception. Then again: "The granting of signatures has become such a matter of course that the bare idea of one man refusing to give his name, is looked upon as now as beyond the pale of possibility." It may therefore be said, without the possibility of contradiction, that the whole army is in debt, and that those who are not in debt for themselves are in debt for others. The debts of the army are generally estimated at One Million sterling, and the average sum which each creditor has to pay for, in interest, commission, insurance, &c. is about Fifteen per Cent. The Bengal Subaltern considers that, it would be an innumerable blessing if these Banks were swept away. We cannot endorse so sweeping a sentence, but we fully agree with him that the public interests of Government are seriously injured by the abuse from the management of them. This would certainly conduce to the dignity and the reputation of the army; for, since the recent disclosures, to be a Director is to become an object of suspicion, if not contempt. Neither is it right that officers in the interior should be allowed to engage in these banking duties, while their brethren at the Presidency are so rigidly excluded from them.

Our great cause of debt is the system of purchasing out senior officers which the Court of Directors has lately sanctioned, and Government would render a most essential service to the army, if the practice could be placed under control, or some regulated system could be adopted. The Court of Directors, strange to say, after having removed every objection to the acceleration of promotion by the purchase of steps, have most strenuously set their faces against the establishment of a retiring fund, and have thus placed the Military arm of the service in a worse position than Medicine or the Civil service. Surely it would be more for the advantage of the officers in particular, and for the service in general, to organize a general retiring fund upon sound principles, which shall provide for the annual retirement of a certain number of the senior Lieut. Colonels, Majors and Captains, after twenty-five years' service, to make the support of it compulsory, and to allow the same interest which is granted to the Civil Annuity Fund.

We have only one more remark to offer. In the advice given by the writer, that no officer should be allowed to take an invalid pension who had received a bonus for retiring, we most cordially concur. In no branch of the service has greater abuse crept in than into that of the Invalids. It was intended as a provision for those who were no longer fit for the active duties of their profession. It is now in great measure filled with men who have been induced to retire on the receipt of a sum from their juniors. The list has thus been swelled four fold. This ought to be peremptorily checked. Any officer who has been rendered a feeble invalid by retiring should be obliged to quit the army at once, with whatever claim for pension he might be entitled to.

He ought not to be allowed to transfer himself to the non-efficient branch of the service, and thus to render himself a perpetual burden on the State. The most effectual mode of curing the evil, is to oblige every officer who receives a furlough for retiring to retire from the service altogether.

**MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE CHINESE.**—We have reviewed the fourth Report of the Sanitary Institution, the Shanghai Hospital, and we are happy to see that the document is not, as is too frequently the case, confined to a mere detail of the number and character of the cases treated, and the medicines "exhibited," but gives incidentally some valuable glimpses into the interior of Chinese society. One of the most extraordinary peculiarities of this extraordinary people is the little regard they entertain for human life; we do not mean the lives of others, for in this they only resemble all other Asiatics, but for their own. They commit suicide apparently with the most complete nonchalance, and for grievous and trivial causes, that a European would never allow himself to be trifled by them for a moment. One man, according to the Report, committed suicide because he had squandered his money in gambling and was ashamed to meet his partner; another, in order to be revenged on his brother who had defrauded him of some money, and who would, he hoped, be avenged of his murder. We may remark by the way, that a modified practice of this same description exists in India, where men are often found to inflict severe injuries on themselves, in order to accuse an enemy of an assault with intent to commit murder. The same spirit of quiet, implacable, revenge used also to be exhibited in the custom of slipping *thurbas* in this country. One Chinese woman tried to poison herself, because her husband had left her, and she wished to annoy him. A second attempted her own life, because she had pawned some clothes belonging to another, and had not money enough to redeem them, while a third killed herself because her husband would not allow her as much liberty as she wished. The last cases are almost equal to some which we have read of in a work upon Japan, where suicide is strictly a piece of etiquette, not to be neglected without due and grave deliberation. The Chinese have also modes of committing suicide which are decidedly original. Drowning and hanging are common enough in all parts of the globe, and the poisoning by opium may be paralleled by English, Prussic acid, but the rich Chinese swallow gold. This aristocratic mode of committing suicide is performed by thrusting gold leaf into the mouth, and thereby causing suffocation. One case of suicide by arsenic was remarkable. The man, a barber by trade, had quarrelled with his partner, and to be revenged on him, swallowed a quantity of arsenic. The poison was so powerful, that the stomach rejected the greater part of it, and the man was brought to the Hospital, still alive, six days after he had taken it. He lingered on for four days more, and then died in the most excruciating tortures.

The Chinese appear to have regular Coroners in all large cities, and the Magistrate has the honor of the Chief Coroner, but his assistant manages the real work of the department, and is invariably a medical man. We hope this fact will reach the Editor of the *Lancet*, with whom it is, we believe, a favorite idea, and one which he has frequently maintained both in and out of the House of Commons. We have given the description of the Coroner's investigation into the death of one of the Hospital patients among our selections. The reader will perceive from the narrative that the enquiry is pursued with as much decorum and care as in England, and the punishment of the unintentional murderer shows that Chinese jurisprudence draws the necessary distinction between manslaughter and murder.

The strange indifference of the Chinese to physical suffering which we have noticed before, is still further displayed in another case, which was brought to the hospital, and is by no means uncommon in Shanghai. A Chinese who had been accustomed to gain his living by begging, finding that his profits were diminishing, and fearing he should be reduced to the terrible necessity of working for a livelihood, determined to become a blind beggar. Unfortunately, the Chinese beggars are not so civilized as those

of our own country, and instead of admitting blindness, he actually thrust a quantity of lime under his eyes, and so deprived himself of all sight. He was taken to the Hospital once or twice, but as he could get no money out of the Asiatics, and he had no wish to have his eyes restored, he soon left again. A practice somewhat similar prevails also in India, but the beggars seldom proceed the length of seriously injuring themselves. Even in their charities, the Chinese appear to be much more closely tied to the European type than any other Asiatic people. During the winter of 1849-50, the poor suffered severely from a want of food which was augmented by the superabundant population of the great towns, and whole families were perishing from hunger. The rich Chinese immediately subscribed liberally, and rice, oil, and salt, were given away. The system of distribution exactly resembled that of the London soup-kitchens, each applicant receiving a ticket which entitled him to a certain quantity. We should have thought this plan was suggested by the Missionaries, who were most active in the distribution of relief, and who were the great cities in the interior adopted precisely the same method of relieving their local distress.

We are very happy to perceive, that the Hospital, the report of which has led us into these rather discursive remarks, is in a flourishing condition. The receipts for the year 1890 were 1172 dollars, and the expenses only 1051 dollars, the medical missionaries, indeed being, we believe, performed actively by the American Medical Missionaries. May every success attend their labors.

**THE BENGAL MAGAZINE.**—The April number of this excellent publication is now before us, and contains articles of interest fully equal to any thing which has hitherto appeared in its pages. We fear the death of the Rev. A. W. Street has deprived the Magazine of a valuable supporter, but we observe in the present number, one of two, articles from his pen, though we cannot hope to see again the exquisite line which he has so often drawn. We have read the signature of "Sphinx." The article in general has not sufficient notice to Indian topics to warrant an extended notice of them in our columns, such as we are accustomed to give to the *Calcutta Review*, but we cannot entirely pass over the "REMARKS ON THE BENGAL NEW TESTAMENTS" particularly as we have been attacked for our former observations on the same topic. In the present article, the most important objection raised by the writer, is to the use of the word "ahm" (food) instead of "ruter" (bread), in the translation of the Lord's Prayer. In support of the latter translation, the writer discourses on the occult virtues and meanings of the word "bread" in a style which it would be difficult to parallel except from a passage or two in the *Talmud*, but he has wholly failed to prove that it is not absurd to make a Bengalee ask for a description of food which he never saw, and which he would not eat if he had it. The obvious meaning of the phrase "our daily bread," is our daily food, and such has been our observation. Neither can we agree that the translation of wine by "drinkar" (vine-juice) is an "inadequate term." The only possible substitute is a "novel" which does not really mean wine, and conveys besides a repulsive idea to the native mind. There is no doubt that in so great an undertaking as the translation of the Scriptures into a criminal and vulgar, mistake will occasionally creep in, and it is only by constant revision and correction that that absolute accuracy can be obtained which the importance of the subject certainly demands. We do not object to the severest criticism on any translation, but it should be executed in a more forbearing spirit, and with a more thorough knowledge of the languages, than is apparent in the articles we have so often mentioned.

An exceedingly well written article "on the Pulpit and its Power," is not within our scope, nor are "Hofrath Von Schlegel's Travels and Tales," or "the Occupations of the Blessed in a Future Life." How we tried to see the *Saons*, however, is written in, but after a very careful perusal, we are unable to decide whether the article is worth a notice, or whether it is "poking" very poor fun at his readers. At any rate he did not see the *Saons*.







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REPORT OVERLAND MAIL FOR P. AND C. ON STEAMER "ORIENTAL," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.

NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Buxar, and the intermediate Ports (Shimla, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the "Oriental," and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel "Oriental," will be closed at this Office, on Monday, the 21st Proximo, and that on after period will be despatched here, and that the 3d Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kidgepore, in time to reach the Buxar. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the "Oriental" can be received after 3 p. m. of that date.

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THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 25th of the ensuing month of June for the departure of the next steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Buxar, notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Thursday, the 14th proximo, and that the first of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office on Wednesday, the 14th Idem.

J. R. BURTON BERRY,

Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
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The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donations:  
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## THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S RESIDENCE AT SIMLA, and in the North West, has been

brought distinctly under the notice of Parliament, and the Deputy Chairman of the Court of Directors has assured the House of Commons, that the proper place for the Governor General is the North West Provinces, *i.e.* at Calcutta. It is important to mark this change in the opinion of the Court, because it opens new and interesting questions. When Lord Ellenborough left Calcutta, and planted himself in the North West, his separation from the Council formed one of the most serious charges brought against him, although, upon the showing of Sir James Hogg, there was an eminent propriety in the step which he took. The North West Provinces were at that time in a most disturbed state. We had just experienced the most signal discomfiture which had ever befallen our arms. An entire British army had been annihilated. The loyalty of every prince in India had been shaken. Every durbar was pregnant with intrigues, and two most formidable armies at Gwalior and Lahore, were ready to coalesce and pour down on our provinces. If there be any reason for Lord Dalhousie's remaining in the North West, when the sword has been restored to the scabbard, and we have none but peaceful arrangements to attend to, much stronger was the reason for the Governor General's residence there, when the flames of war were ready to burst around us in every direction. To us much considering those matters, and looking at the past and the present, it appears that the Court of Directors have thought fit, at length, to alter their opinion on the subject, and have been led, or constrained, to approve of the arrangement of the Governor General's passing twenty months out of his sixty months' incumbency, in Calcutta, near the Council, and forty months away from them, to the North West. But, whether the Court of Directors approve of it or not, such is the horrible tendency of events. The Governor General will go to Simla, and when he is there, he will reside there, or go to Cheena, and the Court here doubts whether their wisdom in bringing generally to the notice of

circumstances. It only remains to adjust the machinery of Government to this new contingency.

That Lord Dalhousie's residence in the North West has been beneficial in the highest degree to the settlement of the Punjab, will not admit of a doubt. Too much praise cannot be given to the efforts which have been made for the consolidation of our institutions in that new country, the success of which is in a great degree owing to the deep interest he has taken in them. More progress has been made in two years in that principality, than was made in twenty in Bengal. This of course is to be ascribed in part to the greater experience we have acquired in the science of oriental administration, and partly to the superior agency at the disposal of Government, but it is certain, that without the personal influence of the head of the Government, exercised on the spot, on the occasion of every reference to him, no such progress could have been expected. Lord Dalhousie has, in fact, stood in the same relation to the Punjab, as Mr. Thomason has stood to the Agra Presidency. It has been his peculiar province. But the attention bestowed on that country has been abstracted from the rest of the empire; and the interests of other provinces have suffered to the same extent to which those of the Punjab have benefited. Considering how power has been centralized by Parliament in the hands of the Governor General, even to the appointment of a Surgeon in Calcutta—how innumerable be the references to him on every subject, it is easy to understand the boundless inconvenience which must result from his residence in the Hills. As this absence, even in time of peace, has now received the official sanction of the Court of Directors, some arrangements must be made, at the termination of the present Act, for readjusting the various powers of the Governments in India. The Governor General, when absent from his Council, takes with him all the executive powers of the Government of India, and the first question which arises is, of what use then is the Council of India in Calcutta, when for forty months out of sixty, the Governor General is twelve or fifteen hundred miles from it, and is not obliged to consult its members upon any question whatever? While there was a chance of the Governor General's returning to take up his abode in Calcutta, the proper place for the Council was the Metropolis, which is the pivot of all financial transactions in India, and which contains the largest and most intelligent Anglo-Saxon community in India. But since the residence of the Governor General in the North West, during two-thirds of his tenure of office, has received the public approval of the Court of Directors, what remains but for Mahomed to go to the mountain, and the Council to go up to Lord Dalhousie? This must be the eventual result of this new turn of affairs; and although there are innumerable disadvantages attending the removal of the Council to the North West, still, it is perhaps the least of two evils, and is to be preferred to the present system which leaves the Council comparatively without occupation, and segregated from the magnetic pole of Government during two-thirds of the incumbency of the Governor General. In this case, we must have a strong Government at Simla, with assigned

powers, who shall be unfettered by any connection with the Council of India, and on whom shall devolve the responsibility of infusing life into the administration of these neglected provinces. When we have a Governor of our own, the sooner the Council take themselves off the better. Some organic change must be made in the system of administration. It is difficult to conceive how, under the present loose and disjointed system, the Government is kept from falling to pieces altogether; its coherence is a standing miracle, sufficient of itself to silence, at once, all the objections which are raised by sceptics to the existence of a Providence.

## PARLIAMENTARY VENTILATION OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.—Our review of Mr. Anstey's speech last week, was unexpectedly extended to such length, that we had no room left for any remarks on the speeches of Lord John Russell, Mr. Hume, or Mr. Bright. We are obliged therefore to return to the subject.

Lord John, while he wisely refused to depute a commission to India to enquire into the nature and working of the administration, which would only have served to unsettle the minds of the natives, and to weaken the Government, stated that if the House wished for a Committee, like that which was appointed in 1838, no opposition would be offered on the part of Government. We may, therefore, look forward with confidence to the appointment of such a Committee early in the ensuing session. Unfortunately, however, a single session will be utterly inadequate for that large range of enquiry, which the labors of the Committee, to be of any value, must embrace. Lord John also gave a very distinct intimation of the views of the present Ministry regarding the machinery of the Indian Government. He stated that, whatever might have been the case in former times, the present Government of India was a very enlightened Government, and that the Court of Directors were a body of very able and very experienced men, and for his part, he could not approve of that total change in the mode of governing India suggested by the honorable gentleman, Mr. Anstey, and he could not assent to the motion. Mr. Anstey's suggestion was contained in the following sentence:—"He did not think it would be at all difficult to abolish the Court of Directors, the Court of Proprietors, and the Board of Control, and to administer the affairs of India much more efficiently than they were now conducted." It appears evident, therefore, that the Whig Ministry have no intention to overturn the present system of Government, conducted as it is through the agency of "a very able and very experienced body of Directors," and to govern India, as the colonies are governed, by means of a Minister of the Crown. This resolution, however, is not perhaps incompatible with the abrogation of the political functions of the Court of Proprietors, whose position in the Government is so ridiculously anomalous, and whose decisions are so utterly useless. The real responsibilities of the Government rest with the President of the Board of Control, whom they cannot touch, and not with the Court of Directors, when they meet.

Mr. Hume went into the interminable





from Nowrah to Pandooah which is now in the hands of the Contractors, is twenty-eight miles. The Contractors have as much land as they can obtain laborers for, and are expediting the work with all diligence. The Court of Directors have also sanctioned the construction of the line from Pandooah to the Ranegangee Galleries, a distance of eighty-one miles and a quarter, and throughout this extent, the line has been selected, and marked out on the ground, and the land surveys of nearly thirty miles have been completed. We believe there is no instance of such rapidity of execution even in England. The orders of Government sanctioning the line were received on the 14th of February last, and these almost incredible labors have been completed in a little more than three months, and that in the hot weather, and in a season like the present, of such intense, burning, blistering heat, as we have not experienced since 1837. It is a matter of great importance that this second section of the sanctioned line should be far advanced by the beginning of the rains of '62, as little, if any, return can be expected before the line is completed to the Collieries. The present season may be considered one of experiment, in which those engaged in the work have been laying in a stock of experience, which will serve to expedite future operations, and obviate delays. All parties have had much to learn regarding the character of this undertaking in a new country, in which the nature of the impediments, and the passive as well as active resistance of circumstances, differ so widely from those in our native land. The Railway staff now understand the country in which their operations will be; the Railway Commissioner comprehends the mode of proceeding best calculated to facilitate the transfer of the land, with the least possible inconvenience and loss to the natives whom it is necessary to dislodge, and the Contractors have been enlightened as to the difficulties and the facilities of the enterprise, and are prepared to begin the operations of the next season with greater confidence.

There is one point, however, which we feel ourselves constrained by the position we happen to occupy in the vicinity of the Rail, and of those who suffer from its operation, to urge with some importunity; we allude to the indispensable necessity of continuing the office of Commissioner, after Mr. Lushington shall have left, to assume the post of Secretary to the Board of Revenue. To this day, none of the poor natives whose houses and trees have been removed, and whose land has been occupied, have received one farthing of their value; and we shall have the rains in three weeks, when they will be exposed, without shelter, to all the inclemency of the weather, and to the sickness and mortality which it must entail. Far be it from us to underestimate the difficulties in the way of adjusting these matters. Considering the turn which circumstances have taken, they must be settled according to the forms which have been established, but all forms, and all formalities imply delay. Mr. Lushington cannot, if he emulated the labors of Hercules, complete the investigation and settlement of these claims upon the principle which has been laid down, before he will be required to give his services to the Board; and if these duties are transferred to the Collectors, who will have every thing to learn regarding them, the worst fears of the poor wretches, that they are not to be paid under three years, will be realized. We plead for the disappointment of a successor to Mr. Lushington, whose attention shall be eternally devoted to the determination of these claims, and to the satisfying of the

people, at the earliest possible period. It is distressing to think that this great national undertaking, which is to confer such incalculable benefit on the country, should commence amidst the lamentations of the poor. The experience of the present season ought nevermore, to be brought to bear on the future. Whenever any new line is sanctioned by Government, the Commissioner should be instructed to proceed to the spot, and pitch his tent in the scene of his labours, with a bag of money at his feet. There, with the aid of the Railroad Surveyor and the Native Deputy Collector, he should determine the area of each holding, the value of each house and tree, and hear and dispose of objections, in a kind of *piec à piec* Court, and pay the people down on the nail for houses, trees, and ground. It is possible that his decisions may not in every instance be strictly correct; in all Indian settlements we must allow a large margin for error; but the people will be infinitely more satisfied with them, than as though they had to wait for justice till it grew sour. Every month of delay increases the difficulties and the expense of the ryot whose house and ground have been taken: every official firm is against his interest; the immediate decision of his case, by the Commissioner's person, would relieve him from all fees to the Ameen, and from all necessity of drawing up a petition, and presenting it through a regular agent.

THE BOMBAY TELEGRAPH AND COURIER is concerned to find that his confidence in the editorial integrity and independence of the *Friend of India* is grievously shaken, if not totally destroyed. It is clear that he sought for the necessary instructions whereon to construct his defence of the proceedings against Jotee Persad from the person he knew best by hand was certain to mislead him. Mr. Gubbins is not a man whose statements in a matter wherein he is so deeply and infamously implicated can be accepted as truthful. The Editor has had the honor to give our own statement of the nature and object of our communication with Mr. Gubbins in immediate connection with his own remarks; and any one who will take the trouble of perusing it, will at once perceive, how completely our respected contemporary at Bombay has allowed his morbid feelings against Government, to cloud his vision and disturb his judgment. When he states that he sought instructions for the defence of the proceedings against Jotee Persad, he has only to turn to our own words to perceive that he is uttering "the thing that is not." We never needed, never sought for any instructions of any sort or description. A charge was brought against Government and diligently promulgated through the Indian journals, of having instituted this criminal prosecution against the great contractor, as a *cross suit*, to evade payment of a debt of half a million sterling for which he had brought an action in the Supreme Court. This accusation was considered so atrocious, that Mr. Anstey brought it forward as one of his most cogent arguments for sending out a committee to India to enquire into the conduct of Government. We considered that if this charge were true it would be fatal to the character of Government, and, so, after having in vain made enquiries in various quarters, we asked Mr. Gubbins to give us information, on this one single point, from the records of the proceedings which were open to the public in the Agents' Court. Does the *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* really believe that in seeking to ascertain the truth or falsehood of this accusation, we

have forfeited all confidence in our editorial integrity and independence? He must indeed have a strange notion of editorial integrity, if he supposes it to consist in the implicit belief of an infamous charge, without any attempt to ascertain its accuracy.

We consider that Government has the same claim on the justice and impartiality of public writers as the humblest individual in the community, and that the press would justly forfeit the confidence of the public, if this claim was ever disallowed. Let us suppose our contemporary himself placed in the same predicament, charged with or pleading a claim which was under judicial investigation, by bringing a cross suit against the claimant in another Court for fraud and forgery. Would he consider it to be very base a proceeding, so entirely destructive of all reputation, for integrity, if any brother editor were to take the pains to investigate the truth of the charge, and, having discovered its impure falsehood, would he consider that it involved a forfeiture of independence to announce to the world that it was the prosecution for fraud which was first instituted, and that the cross suit of the debt was intended to counteract it? As to our having asked information "from the very person whom we knew to be a liar and was certain to mislead us," we knew just the contrary. We knew that Mr. Gubbins was a high-minded and honorable man to falsify facts and dates, even if the refutation of his statements had not been so completely at hand, and that when we asked him for an abstract of the proceedings from documents open to all, we should be certain to receive a faithful and honest reply. The *Telegraph* says, that Mr. Gubbins is not a man whose statements in such a matter could be accepted as truthful. This is a more idle situation, and only serves to show how much the Editor is engaged and disappointed by the disclosure that the cross suit was brought by Jotee Persad, and not by Government. If there be any incoherence in the narrative of proceedings drawn up by Mr. Gubbins, nothing is easier than to detect it by a reference to the documents themselves. Upon the common principle of justice, his statements are entitled to belief, till they are shown to be false. Let the Editor vindicate his own character for integrity and independence by investigating their correctness, before he ventures to declare them unworthy of confidence.

THE POONA COLLEGE.—The long expected amalgamation of the Banerit College of Poona with the English School in the same city, has at length been completed, and the *Bombay Gazette* of the 9th instant publishes the "Rules" adopted by the Government of that Presidency for the future management of the new Institution. We shall endeavour to give our readers a brief view of their nature, before we speak of the results to which they point. The new College is to be separated into two divisions, the Upper or College division, and the Lower or School division, an arrangement which has probably been copied from the German Gymnasiums. These divisions will contain four departments, viz. the Vernacular, English, Sanskrit, and Normal sections, each having different curriculum of study. In the English and Sanskrit departments, the course of instruction will generally resemble that which prevails in similar institutions in Bengal, except that the students are at liberty to attend both, or either, at their own discretion, but it is to the Normal and Vernacular departments we wish at present to direct attention. Strange to say, the arrangements for both these sections of the College are made in conformity



is impossible; for if they are intended to succeed, a rigid test, which we are unfortunately not so accustomed to, that it strikes us with something of astonishment, and envy. It has been determined that the students shall acquire correct knowledge of their mother tongue. They will not, moreover, be allowed to follow at their own fancy, and neglect it in the hope of obtaining a knowledge of English with greater rapidity. Every student of the College, without exception, is compelled to study Marhatta, and four "Hav. tion Exhibitions" of Forty Rupees a month, are set apart for those who have gaily distinguished themselves by their vernacular attainments. The holders of these exhibitions will retain them for five years, during which period, they are expected to devote a portion of every day to teaching, under the superintendence of the Principal, and the remainder to the translation, or composition, of useful works in Marhatta. Under this admirable arrangement, not only will a large number of scholars be induced to compete for a prize of considerable pecuniary importance, and by the very fact of that competition impart an additional interest to vernacular studies, but a very efficient class of Translators will gradually be raised up, who will be able to express, in the language familiar to their own people, the learning and science of the West. We need not say, how great a step in the road to national vernacular education, the creation of such a class of men among us, would prove.

That the Board of Education here in view to give the way for a general system of education, a evident from the pains which they have taken to render the College efficient as a Normal Training establishment. A whole department of the College is to be devoted to "training students in the art of teaching," and thereby raising up a body of "superior Schoolmasters," each one of whom will become at a future period a centre of light and information to the village in which he may labour. No less than twenty Scholarships are set aside for the students of this class, and although their value—four and five rupees a month—is not very great, it is quite sufficient to attract that useful and important class, who have no hope of Deputy Magistries, and are content to labour in their own sphere on a decent competence. The only doubt we entertain, is, whether the amount of remuneration to be awarded to these superior schoolmasters, when they are trained, is sufficient to induce parents to send their children to the Normal School. At present, we believe, the remuneration is rather limited, but the perfect comprehension already shown by the Bombay Board of the educational necessities of India, gives fair ground for hope that when the importance of the subject becomes more generally felt, the salaries of the country schoolmasters will bear a better proportion to their labour and responsibility.

The provision for Vernacular and Normal instruction which has thus been made on the Bombay side, has given us the more pleasure, because we must confess we were becoming almost disheartened by the aspect of the question in Bengal. The bitter feeling which apparently exists on the subject, seems to place all prospect of a union among the conflicting parties, with the view of bestowing efficient education on the people, at an indefinite distance. A belief that it is impossible to diffuse a knowledge of English to such an extent, that it may become the *Lingua Franca* of thirty millions of people, still seems to reign in the minds of certain Anglicists, and to prevent any progress with vernacular

every proposal to grant the mass of the people an opportunity of acquiring knowledge in their own tongue. Had Bengal become the only Presidency in India, we should have been altogether without hope, but the right plan having been once indicated at Bombay, it is at length travelling across the Peninsula, and will eventually reach even this slow coach Presidency. Entirely separated as these two divisions of the empire are in interests, habits, and characteristics, Bombay will still be able to exercise on Bengal something of the same kind of moral influence exercised by America on England. The adoption of a Civil Code in New York gave a new impetus to the Law reformers of Westminster Hall, and stirred up kindly but no exertions for his favourite object. In the same way may we hope that the means adopted by Bombay for the promotion of Vernacular education will make a gradual impression in Bengal, and slowly, but surely, remove those strong prejudices and that vice inertia which now obstruct the path of improvement.

#### AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF THE PUNJAB.

A proposition for the establishment of a Society of this nature has been for some weeks past circulated in Lahore, and a meeting to consider the measures to be adopted, was held on the 10th instant, at the house of Sir Henry Lawrence. A considerable number of officers, Civil and Military, attended the meeting, and the plan of the proposed Society was fully laid down in a series of resolutions. The objects of the Society resemble those of the kindred institution in Calcutta, but their attention will be particularly directed to the introduction and improvement of fruit and other trees, of which the Punjab is at present singularly destitute. In order to promote this object, nurseries young trees are to be kept up, if possible, by district officers in correspondence with the Society, while large gardens will be selected by the Society itself, and converted into nurseries for distribution. Communication will at once be opened with other Societies of the same nature in India, and Ceylon, and seeds will be procured from London, the Cape, Philadelphia, and Sydney, "the dry climate of New Holland approximating most to that of many parts of the Punjab." The subscription is fixed at the low rate of two Rupees a month, with an optional entrance fee; the latter clause being probably introduced in order to allow those who possess the means to subscribe liberally, without compelling poorer members to do the same. An application is also to be made to Government for pecuniary assistance, similar to that bestowed upon other Agricultural Societies in India, and there is little doubt that the request will be granted. The climate of the Punjab, or at least of many portions of it, appears to afford fair ground for hope, that the great majority of English and Australian vegetable productions may be cultivated to advantage.

**BUSINESS MAGAZINE.**—We beg to call the attention of our readers to a notice in our Advertising columns, of the progress of this excellent publication. The Editor proposes for the future to remunerate contributors by allowing them a share in the profits of the Magazine. We are glad to see that his undertaking has been sufficiently successful to warrant him in taking this step, but we think it would be better if the amount of remuneration were as once and distinctly stated.

#### WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, MAY 23.

—The *Harbinger* mentions that the following gentlemen have been nominated by Government to act as Commissioners of Emigration into the cause of the late cases of shipwreck in the port of Calcutta. Capt. C. J. Rogers, Superintendent of Marine, Chairman, Mr. John Cowie, Mr. P. Ferguson, J. J. Macdonald, C. B. Skinner, J. Buchanan, J. Wells, and Captain Ellis, with Mr. Stedman as Secretary, and a clerk on his staff. They are to be called to explain into every particular of the late calamity, and to ascertain whether there are any real grounds for believing the fact to be the work of accident, and

what, in the opinion of the Commissioners, would be the best mode of suppressing the practice.

—A report was current yesterday in Calcutta that an attempt had been made to set another Opium clipper on fire, and the rumor that it had been foiled. According to a statement published in the *Englishman*, the crew of the clipper *Har* endeavored to set her on fire on the 2nd April, when lying in the harbor of Cunningham; fortunately the attempt was discovered before the flames had made any progress. The fact of the Opium clipper being so particularly marked out for destruction seems to indicate a purpose that is not altogether consistent with the price of Opium in China by a sudden diminution of the supply. This conjecture, which has been alluded to by more than one of our contemporaries, is in itself as ample reason for the appointment of the Committee mentioned above.

—The *Englishman* has received some papers from Sydney of the 13th March. The *Sydney Herald*, speaking of the late return of the European population in Australia, which he considers incorrect, says that the population of Australia cannot be less than 400,000, which, with New Zealand, gives a population of nearly 500,000 for the whole group. This number is rather more than double what it was ten years ago, but it is still only a sixth of that of the United States, when they commenced their great struggle for independence. A population of this kind is scattered over an immense continent, and not entirely united in sentiment, can only hope to obtain separation from England by the voluntary, or semi-voluntary, generosity of the mother country.

—We regret to perceive in the *Telegraph* and *Courier* a report of the alarming illness of Mr. Mackay, the Canton Commissioner. We sincerely hope both for the sake of Mr. Mackay, and of the India trade, that he will not be compelled to return to England before he has completed his important labors.

—We regret to notice the death of Captain A. H. C. Stanger *Post*. He died at Singapore on the 22nd April. He will, it is said, be succeeded in his command by Captain Burbank, who, however, is to receive only Rs. 450 a month instead of Rs. 500.

—The *Strait Times* of the 20th April, states that a most daring plot had been laid to seize the *Hongkong* steamer while on her way from Hongkong to Canton with 100,000 dollars on board, and had been discovered by the board before the departure of the vessel, and a plan was laid for some twenty individuals, we suppose Chinese, to take possession by the steamer, and seize the vessel with the assistance of the soldiers of the Canton Customs. The Police Magistrate at Hongkong, required intelligence of the plot, and despatched the *scow ship* *Requard* after the steamer. The *Hongkong*, however, arrived safely at her destination, and the whole of the soldiers and crew were immediately apprehended.

—Singapore has been visited by the cholera, which had carried off four hundred persons in a few days, but the disease appears to have assumed an unusually abated character. In the pauper hospital only five per cent. of the number attacked died, and although this is ascribed by the *Strait Times* to the successful treatment adopted by the Surgeon, Dr. Dalry, it is still evident that the pestilence cannot have assumed its most virulent type.

—The *Penang Gazette* says, that a bill has been brought into Parliament for the regulation of Steam Navigation. The Act is to be called the Steam Navigation Act, and it will contain clauses prohibitory of over-crowding. The number of passengers will be limited by a certificate granted by the Board of Trade, and a penalty of five shillings for every passenger beyond the number allowed. The measure is evidently directed against the little Thames steamers, which are always loaded to the water's edge, and the five shilling fine would be easily laughed at by the sea going Companies.

—The same journal quotes from a London paper, an article on the present state of California, which seems to indicate that matters are not so favorable as they were, over their equilibrium. More gold fields have been discovered, but a portion of the population have turned their attention to Agriculture, and are said to be highly prosperous. Large numbers of slaves, who had been introduced, and the climate is said to be favorable to all descriptions of cattle.

—We perceive from a General Order of the 7th May, published in the *London Gazette*, that the Government have resolved to modify their arrangements for paying to their discharged soldiers, the deposits which they may have placed in the hands of the Town Major. The money has hitherto been paid to the soldier upon his arrival in London, but as this has been found to be injurious to him, it will, in future, be withheld until he reaches his native place, or place of enlistment. The new system is doubtless well calculated, and may in many cases prove highly beneficial to the soldier's family. We have known an instance of a Drum-Drum son, who obtained his discharge, and accompanied his mother, who was in the going home, he asked to be made a point in London. There he received the money, but instead of going to his native village in Ireland, squandered it away in two months, and wasted again the money which he had received.

—We have hitherto noticed to notice an advertisement announcing that a half-yearly dividend of ten Rupees is





















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20		Co.'s Ra.	Co.'s Ra.		Co.'s R.
30	On or before 9th	10,000	420	178 8	241 2
40		10,000	480	204 0	276 0
		10,000	580	280 12	299 8

50	May	10,000	740	314 8	425 1
60	1845	10,000	1080	437 12	569 4

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# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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[Price 3 Cts. Rs. monthly or 30 Rs. yearly if paid in advance.]

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPOST OVERLAND MAIL VIA ROMANY.  
The Government of Bombay having appointed the 20th inst. as the day for the departure of the 20th Mail, with a Mail for Buss—Notice is hereby given, for general information, that the cut-off day for the transmission of letters and papers for the 20th Mail, which may be intended for conveyance by that Mail, will be Thursday, the 20th inst. and that the 10th Mail of the Overland Packet will be closed at 10 o'clock from this Office, on Wednesday, the 13th inst.

J. R. BULLION SECRETARY,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, 20th May, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the Friend of India begs to acknowledge the following Donation:  
From G. V. Brown, Esq. Co's B. 50, to the Benevolent Institution, Calcutta.

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Mail of the 24th April arrived in Calcutta on the morning of Monday, the 2nd instant, after a long passage of Thirty-nine days. The intelligence it brings is to the last degree uninteresting, the greater portion of the columns of the Summarist being filled with details of the Great Exhibition. The Crystal Palace was to be opened by the Queen in person, on the 1st of May, and great efforts are being made to have all the contributions ready for display before that time. Nearly twenty thousand separate packages have been received by the Commissioners, and there is no longer the smallest doubt that the industry of every people in the globe, from the Parisians to the New Zealanders, will be fittingly represented. The contributions from India appear to have excited particular interest, though it is evident that a feeling of disappointment exists at the practical, and unpromising character of most of the contributions from this country. Great attention appears also to have been paid to the department of the Fine Arts, and the Exhibition is rich in works of sculpture, mosaic paintings, and wood carvings.

The alarmists who have been incessant predicting some catastrophe at the opening of the great Exhibition, have again raised their heads, and the feeling would almost seem to have communicated itself to all England. The true cause of this apprehension appears to be a fancy on the part of the people, that the immense number of foreigners who intend to visit England in May, will include a number of turbulent Red Republicans and desperadoes, who would like nothing better than a serious tumult in the streets of London. The Ministry, however, have declared that they are forewarned, and are fully prepared to meet any attempt of the kind, and troops have been gradually, though quietly, concentrated all round London. The fears of the respectable citizens appear to have been not a little aggravated by the Chartism manifesto which has been lately published. It is a well written document, but far more revolutionary than the Charter itself, the composers declaring their intention of "nationalizing" that is, confiscating, all landed property, and as far as we can understand, subjecting it to a system of perpetual re-distribution. The National Debt is also to be paid off, by considering the interest a gradual repayment of the principal; in other words, by expending the whole debt into annuities terminating in thirty years, and through, not exactly equivalent to, but practically based upon the same

principle. As neither the educated artisans nor the agricultural population of England sympathize with these ideas, the manifesto will soon fall into contempt. At a great democratic meeting in London, Ledru Rollin, with infinite generosity, disclaimed all idea of revolutionizing England by violent means. He might as well try to revolutionize Pekin. The Parliamentary business of the fortnight has not been of great importance, as all discussion on the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill has been postponed, till it has passed the ordeal of the Committee. The Bill will probably be passed without any further difficulty. Meanwhile, Dr. Manning, late Archbishop of Chicago, Mr. J. R. Hope, Queen's Counsel, and Dr. Jerrard of the London University, have succeeded to Rome. The Bishop of Exeter has again placed himself in direct hostility to his Archbishop, his Sovereign, and the majority of his own Church. He has declared, that come what may, he will not institute any clergyman whose views on the question of Baptismal Regeneration differ from his own, and has summoned a synod of his clergy of his own authority. Such inconceivable arrogance can do nothing but bring contempt on the episcopal character, and the Church he represents.

Mr. Herries, according to promise, brought forward his motion against the renewal of the entire income tax on the 7th April, and he proposed to reduce it for the present by one-third, but the debate ended in favour of the Ministry, who obtained a majority of forty-eight, in a House of 508 members. A select Committee has been appointed to enquire into the mode of collecting the Church rates, which it is asserted, are levied in an arbitrary and capricious manner. The real state of this vexatious question, therefore, stands an exceedingly fair chance of being at length investigated, and we may hope the result will serve at least to remove many of the false ideas now prevalent on the subject. Lord Ashley, on the 10th, introduced a most excellent bill for improving the condition of the poor. It is designed to enable Town Councils, and parish Vestries, to build improved lodging houses in their respective localities, and thus give the poor the advantage of decent habitations at rents which will still be profitable to the builders. On the 11th April, Sir William Molesworth brought forward his motion for relieving the mother country of the expense of maintaining a military force in her colonies, and in a long and masterly speech shewed how costly these military establishments were to England, and how comparatively useless to the Colonies. He then touched upon the question of the Kaffir war, and pointed out the fact that no war did not arise in the Cape Colony, but in British Kaffraria, a district entirely separated from the Cape, and governed by Sir Harry Smith, under a separate commission from the Crown. Lord John Russell in reply proposed a Committee of Enquiry into the relations between the British and the Kaffirs, while, on the other hand, Mr. Roebuck and several other members declared, that the extermination of the Kaffirs was an inevitable necessity, that the black races had always died out before the progress of the whites, and that the quicker the operation was completed the better for both parties. There is no further Home intelligence of any interest, except that Miss Talbot, the lady about whom

there has been no much discussion, is about to marry Lord E. Howard, a son of the Duke of Norfolk, and is, therefore, in no further danger of being immured for life. We must not, however, forget that a Bill for the removal of Smithfield market has passed its second reading, to the immense indignation of that slow moving body, the corporation of London.

Nothing whatever of interest has transpired on the Continent since the departure of the last Mail, but the various parties in France are anxiously preparing for the Presidential election in the beginning of 1852. The 2d Republicans have resolved to support a working mechanic of the name of Anthony, but several other leaders of the same party intend to offer themselves as candidates. The probabilities are still in favour of the re-election of Louis Napoleon. The assembly has voted the sum of 6,000,000 francs to place the harbour of Cherbourg in a state of complete defence, and Napoleon's great idea of making that port the arsenal of France, will probably be carried out to its full extent. The Chartists, the Parisian Punch, almost the only paper hostile to the President which has escaped the operation of the new Press law, has at length been seized, for publishing a caricature reflecting upon Louis Napoleon and his ministers. In Italy and Austria all is quiet, and although a rebellion is now raging in Portugal, it is regarded as of the smallest possible importance.

The only news of interest to India is a report, apparently authentic, that the corps of Engineers is to be immediately increased, and Lord Broughton's promise, given in the House of Lords, that the Dissenters' Marriage Act should be despatched to India without delay.

## THE BENGAL CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITY FUND.

—We have obtained a copy of the Report of the Committee, appointed at the special general meeting of subscribers to the Bengal Civil Service Annuity Fund, on the 1st of April, 1850, and we are glad to give a brief notice of it. Twenty years have elapsed since the Fund was established, and the time has now come round for reviewing its operations, and comparing its results with the anticipation of the Honorable Court, as well as for those modifications which the experience of this long period suggests. The rules of the Fund are too well known to those who are interested in it, to render it necessary to recapitulate them from the Report. It may be sufficient, therefore, to state that the Civil Annuity Fund is differently constituted from all other funds of a similar character in India. It was doubtless the intention of the Court to give the Civilian a pension of £500 a year, after twenty-five years' service, and to assist him in providing an annuity from his own subscriptions, to which he should be entitled at the same time with the pension. But the Court adopted a curious and round-about plan for the accomplishment of this object, and established a most complicated system of accounts and proceedings. The Civilian was to contribute four per cent. from his allowances, to the annuity fund; the Court was to contribute an equal amount, and to allow six per cent. interest on the accumulated fund; the pension and the annuity were to be blended together under the name of an Annuity of £1,000 a year, after the full pe-

ried of service, and the Civilian was required to make good half its value, or Rs. 55,980, before he could enjoy it. The difference between this sum and the aggregate of his monthly subscriptions in twenty-five years, with six per cent. interest, was to be made up by a fine. It was originally supposed by the Court, that the accumulated value of a Civilian's contributions at the end of twenty-five years, would be Co.'s Rs. 41,467, and that the fine he would be required to pay to be entitled to the annuity, would be Co.'s Rs. 12,468. The Court also calculated the number of Civilians likely to retire upon the annuity in the twenty-five years at 226. It has actually been only 167. Of the 184 deceased subscribers, no fewer than 48 died after they had completed their service of twenty-five years, and many of them would have retired upon annuities, but for their inability to pay the fine, in estimating which the Court are found to have been singularly mistaken. In consequence of the general reduction of allowances, the twenty-one subscribers who are entitled by length of service to annuities in the present year, will have to make good, not Rs. 18,468, but, on an average, Rs. 25,922. This sum however includes what we cannot but consider an iniquitous addition which has been made to the subscription for "quarterly and to date of decease payments." We are happy to perceive that the Committee are anxious to abolish it.

The Report furnishes us with some important data regarding the rapid deterioration of the financial position and prospects of the service. The eleven subscribers who are now qualified by twenty-five years' service for the annuity, were receiving in 1885, that is, after fifteen years' service, aggregate allowances (one of them being on furlough) of Rs. 293,000 a year. But the situations held at the close of 1880, by the nine subscribers who arrived in India in 1835, and who have consequently been fifteen years in the service, give them an aggregate income of only Rs. 97,000 annually (one being on furlough). In the former case the average income of each Civilian after fifteen years' service, was 29,300 Rs. a year, in the latter, Rs. 12,125. The rule which the Directors laid down in 1826, is therefore utterly inapplicable to the circumstances of 1880. But there are few bodies so slow in accommodating themselves to the mutation of circumstances as the Court, and we can scarcely expect to see the modifications proposed by the Committee carried into effect during the present charter.

The proposals they have made in their Report are in accordance with the general wishes of the subscribers at this Presidency on this subject. At present, a Civilian is not allowed to retire after his period of twenty-five years' service, till he has completed the payment for one-half the value of his annuity. But there is no absolute necessity, beyond the inconvertible fall of Leadenhall Street, that a man who is willing to retire on £750 a year, should be absolutely constrained to remain in the country, encumbering the ladder of promotion, till he has paid up the value of an annuity of £1000. The Committee propose therefore to ask the Court to grant permission to the members of the Civil Service to retire on a pension of £500 a year after twenty-five years' service, together with that amount of annuity which their accumulated subscriptions may be equivalent to. The Report gives many good and valid reasons for this modification of the rules, but it omits the strongest of all reasons—that the modified rule is the dictate of common sense.

But why should the Court restrict the man-

ner of retirements, as they do, in each year to 9?—which the Committee are anxious to increase to 10—8. This limitation of the number of positions is not enforced on any other branch of the service. Every military, medical, and clerical officer is at liberty to quit their service with his pension, as soon as his claim to it is matured by the length of his service. Why should a different rule be made in reference to the Civil Service? The Committee state that under the present system, there will be only 96 annuities, that is pensions, available on the 1st of May 1887, whereas there will be 207 subscribers on that date, qualified by twenty-five years' service to take annuities. The only reasonable mode of dealing with the retiring allowances of the Civil Service, is to allow every man to take his pension, at the end of twenty-five years, and to retire from the service with whatever *excess* his aggregate subscriptions may entitle him to.

The verasta question of allowing a refund of the excess of subscriptions beyond the half value of the annuity, and permitting those whose subscriptions have already entitled them to an annuity, to discontinue any further payments is fully discussed in this Report, and six of the members of the Committee have recorded their rejection of this claim, while one of them, Mr. Harvey, has drawn up a separate minute in which he espouses it. The question must be considered as referring to the past, rather than to the future. The diminution in the scale of allowances in the Civil Service is at present so great, that there is not the remotest chance of any such contingency hereafter. Of the 21 subscribers entitled by length of service to an annuity in the present year, 7 will have to make good, on an average of 19,390 Rs. and the remaining 14, no less a sum than 80,096 Rs. each, for the half value of the annuity. There will, therefore, be a deficiency in every future case, and not an excess. But, on the 1st May, 1880, there were 98 members, belonging to the palmy days of the service, and who had subscribed more than the half value of an annuity on their lives, and the aggregate excess of their subscriptions was Rs. 77,441. It must be remembered that after the Fund was once established, every Civilian was obliged by his covenant to join it, but that it was left optional with the Civilian in the service when it commenced, to join it or not. In dealing therefore with the case of the 80 members who have paid more than the half value of their annuity, we have to refer to the inducement which the Court offered the members of the service in 1824 to connect themselves with the fund; that is, to the rules which they laid down for it. The clear stipulation was, that the Civilian was to receive on his retirement an annuity of £1000 at a purchase-money of half the value of the annuity, and *no more*. This rule most clearly and unequivocally provides that no Civilian shall be required to pay more than one-half the value of his annuity, or 53,920 Rs. and that he is entitled to a refund of all excess of subscriptions beyond this amount. The Report endeavors to explain away the application of the words *and no more* to the excess of subscriptions, by a long and labored argument which, however, carries little satisfaction to the mind. It also discusses the expediency of allowing or withholding the repayment of the excess, but the question appears to us to be one of right, and not of expediency. The Court of Directors, moreover, must be allowed to be the best interpreters of their own proposal, and their explanation of the terms of it must be conclusive. In their letter to the Government of Bengal, dated the 1st Septem-

ber, 1841, they state, with regard to a refund of subscriptions, "we are disposed to meet the views of the majority of the subscribers to the extent of confining refunds to the excess which may have been paid beyond their half value of the annuity, such an arrangement being in accordance with the rules of the Fund." We have not space to go over the arguments which have been used for and against the measure. We must confess, that the reasons given by Mr. Harvey's minute, for a refund of all subscriptions, independently of the sum which derive from the express declaration of the Court of Directors, appear in our humble opinion to be absolutely irrefutable.

With the exception of that portion of the Report which bears on this question, it is in the highest degree satisfactory, and the improvements which it suggests in the rules of the Fund, are highly desirable; only, instead of asking the Court to increase the number of annuities from nine to ten, they should, we think, have summoned courage to propose the broader principle of restricting them to no specific number, but of allowing every member of the Service to retire on his pension at the end of twenty-five years.

THE SERAMPORE CHURCH has been made over to the Bishop of Calcutta, who performed Divine Service in it last Sunday.

The Church was erected in 1805; through the exertions of the Governor, the Hon. Colonel Bie, at a cost of Rs. 18,500. Of this sum, the Marquis of Wellesley gave 8000 Rs.,—as it was said at the time, because the view of a distant spire would improve the prospect from Boreascope Park;—the remainder was raised in Calcutta, Serampore, and Denmark. No Service has ever been performed by any Danish Clergyman. Soon after the capture of this town by the English in 1808, the principal inhabitants solicited Government for permission to accept the offer of the Serampore Missionaries to perform Divine Service in it. The Governor General, Lord Minto, who pleased to accede to their wishes, but as the anti-missionary feeling was then at its height, the permission was accompanied with the injunction to confine themselves to the "performance of the service in the usual manner, and carefully to abstain from all discourses of a nature to offend the religious prejudices of the natives; any neglect of which condition would be followed by the revocation of the permission of circumstances, the Church is now resigned to the British Authorities, after the lapse of forty-three years, just at the time when a large meeting of the most influential and orthodox Natives in Calcutta have resolved to check the progress of Christianity, by weakening the firmest bulwark of Hindooism—the institution of caste—which has been maintained inviolate since the days of Munoo. The Serampore Missionaries, Dr. Carey, Dr. Marshman and Mr. Ward, and their beloved associates, Mr. Mack, continued to give their gratuitous services to the congregation for a period of thirty-seven years, till the death of the latter, when he was succeeded by the Rev. W. H. Denham. In 1846, the town was transferred to the British Government, and Mr. Denham was requested to continue his ministrations, and the keys of the edifice, and a pair of silver candlesticks—the only property of the Church, presented in 1808, by Mrs. Schow,—were made over to him. Some days ago, a petition was drawn up and transmitted to the Bishop, to which between twenty and thirty signatures were affixed, requesting him to pre-

vide for the performance of the service according to the ritual of the Church of England. Mr. Denham, on hearing of the Memorial, lost no time in writing to the Government of Bengal, to say, that he was anxious not to stand in the way of that section of the inhabitants who were partial to the office of the Episcopal Church, and requested permission to resign the charge of the Church which had been committed to him, and to make over the keys and candlesticks to the Magistrate. Mr. Denham's congregation will assemble for service in the morning, as they have been accustomed to do in the evening, in the very elegant Mission Chapel "consecrated," as the mural tablet in it states, "by the ministrations of the Serampore Missionaries." By them the Gospel has been preached in the Settlement Church, gratuitously, faithfully, zealously, and without the smallest alloy of sectarianism, for the space of Forty-three years; and we can express no hope more suitable to the occasion, than that it may be preached with the same zeal and fidelity by those to whom its pulpit has now been transferred.

We have much pleasure in publishing the reply of the Bengal Government to Mr. Denham's application, for permission to resign the Church. The tribute of esteem and respect which it pays to the memory of the great men whose labors have hallowed this town in the affections of the Christian communities on both sides the Atlantic, is not more appropriate to the dead, than it is honorable to the character of the present Government.

No. 68.

From the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, To the Rev. W. H. DENHAM, Serampore, dated, Fort William, the 20th May, 1851.

Reinforced. Sir,—I am directed by the Deputy Governor of Bengal to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 28th instant, in which you mention that you have signed a Memorial signed by twenty or thirty persons, has been forwarded to the Bishop of Calcutta, praying for the services of a Chaplain at Serampore, and in order not to stand in the way of any of the inhabitants of the Town who may desire Episcopal services, you have signed a receipt of which you propose to deliver the charge of the Church at Serampore, which you had accepted from the Government, and to retire with your congregation to your own place of worship.

2. The Deputy Governor has learned from the Bishop of Calcutta, that His Lordship has it in his power to meet the prayer of the Memorialists, by sending an Episcopal Clergyman to Serampore, to perform there Divine Service on Sundays, regularly. He understands too that your own place of worship, erected not long ago, is such that your congregation will not be put to great inconvenience by the change. His Honor, therefore, accepts your offer; and in so doing he directs me to convey to you his acknowledgment of the very liberal and kindly feeling in which it has been made.

3. Mr. Buckland, the officer in Magisterial charge of the Sub-Division of Serampore, has been directed to receive from you the Keys and Candlesticks of the Church, on your intimating to him that you are prepared to deliver them into his custody.

4. His Honor cannot allow this opportunity to pass without a communication of thanks for the services you now stand to retain charge of the Serampore Church on the Settlement becoming a British possession, and to continue graciously to perform Divine Service therein, notwithstanding, as you had done before under the Danish Government. In this charge you were the successor of a line of valiant and pious Ministers, who more than one, ever since the Church was opened, had graciously undertaken, and well and diligently performed the duties you now resign from so much disinterested motives; and for the service so undertaken, and so performed, the gratitude of the settlement is due as well to the memories of the Dead as to the Living.

I AM, Sir,  
J. F. GRAY,  
Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

THE DEBTS OF THE ARMY.—A correspondent of the *Englishman* of Wednesday week, who assumes the name of "Myra," has published some remarks on the statement of the Bengal Subaltern, "regarding the debts of the army,

and the comment which appeared on them in this journal. The subject is one of the deepest importance to the comfort and happiness of the officers, and to the reputation of the army, which is a national possession. It ought therefore to be discussed with forego in which the most anxious search for truth shall be blended with the most resolute determination to abide by it. The object in view, is to remove the evils which affect the army, not to expose them in a spirit of malevolence; and we hail the accession of "Myra" to the discussion, because he is an officer of long standing and experience, because he thinks for himself, and writes with much point, and impugns with earnestness some of the statements which have been published. His letter would, however, have been all the stronger, if he had omitted certain expressions which lamentably betoken the absence of that calmness which is so invaluable in such a discussion. The term "jeu-d'illusion" which he has applied to us, only creates a smile. It is rarely that the term can be used with safety to the writer who adopts it, because it is because so very common to fly to it, whenever the argument of an opponent is found to be unmanageable. In the present instance, therefore, it is far more injurious to "Myra" than to us. But the term "anonymous scribbler" applied to the Bengal Subaltern, is altogether out of place. We can easily fancy an old and grey-headed Commander snubbing a young Subaltern of ten years' standing on the Parade; but on the arena of the Press, we all meet on an equality, and it is not mere rank or seniority, but innate and vigorous talent which carries the day; and of this the Bengal Subaltern has shown no lack whatever. But to the point. "Myra" appears to doubt the statement regarding the state of the accounts of the reported Ensigns as detailed at Benares. "One case" he says, "is retained, and that appears exaggerated." Now we have made the most particular enquiries on the subject, from officers whose evidence is unimpeachable, as well as from the victims themselves, and we are prepared to assert that the condition to which "not a few," that is, many, of the young officers were reduced by the unfortunate circumstances in which they were suddenly placed, was so deplorable as to call for the immediate modification of the system which occasioned it, and that it is therefore the bounden duty of Government to post Ensigns to the corps to which they are to be permanently attached, either before they leave England, or on their landing in India.

As to the proposal of making eighteen the minimum age for an appointment to the Indian army, the *Englishman's* correspondent partly admits its advantages, and that in connection with the physical development at that period of life. He adds, however, that strange to say, he had known many instances of officers, who were temperate in their habits, and that every one of them, without exception, was above eighteen when he arrived in the country, and almost every one of them had contracted at home the vice which proved his ruin. "To laud of superior mind and steady application, the two years from 16 to 18, if passed at home in a place of offering facilities for intellectual improvement, are invaluable, but by all others that period is more likely to be spent in unprofitable idleness, if not in premature debauchery than in any useful pursuit." These valuable remarks we recommend to the attention of the reader. Of course, it will be indispensably necessary when the age is extended from 16 to 18, that the Court of Directors should so raise the scale of qualifications as to render it indispensable for the

two additional years passed at home, to be devoted to intellectual culture.

The most severe and unjustifiable remark of "Myra," refers to the statement of the Bengal Subaltern, which we endorsed that "to some of the commandants and old officers of regiments to which legions of Cadets are assigned, the poor boys become objects of the most intense abhorrence; they entail an additional amount of trouble and correspondence, without in any way adding to the future credit of the regiment." "A more disgraceful and unfounded slander" says the *Englishman's* correspondent, "was never sent forth to the world. Every person acquainted with the Bengal army will at once see the falseness of the statement, and consign its inventor and propagator to the contempt they deserve." We think not. From the general tenor of "Myra's" letter, we have no doubt that if he has ever had a batch of Cadets assigned to him, and attached to the regiment he commands, he has considered the charge of them in the light of a sacred trust, and that he has most honourably and conscientiously fulfilled his duty by the unprotected striplings. But upon what principle does he undertake to answer for the whole army, and venture to deny that there is a single officer who regards them in the light of a nuisance? Our experience is more limited than his, yet we have known more than one officer who entertained these unpleasant feelings towards the charge thrust on him; and we therefore consider the Bengal Subaltern fully justified in stating that there are "some" commandants and old officers of regiments on whom the wild frolicking of the unposted Cadet produces this melancholy effect. Supposing the Subaltern had said that some of the officers of the Bengal army had been guilty of those transgressions for which the Court Martial in the days of Sir Charles Napier had cashiered so large a number, might not the correspondent of the *Englishman* have said, with equal justice, that it was a foul and disgraceful slander? In so large a body as the Bengal army we must necessarily have every variety of virtue, as well as every modification of vice.

Then comes the great question of the indebtedness of the army, on which "Myra" grows so warm, as to forget that no gentleman who bears the Queen's Commission is at liberty to use the word "false." For our part, we should be too happy to be convinced that there has been, as he says, an improvement "in the solvency of the army in the last twenty years," and that we have been altogether mistaken in the supposition that the majority of the officers are in debt. But with the facts which stand in the face, it is impossible to indulge this favourable view of the matter. It may be quite true that before the Banks were in existence, a certain number of officers were more deeply involved than any of the officers are at present; but there can be no doubt that a far greater proportion of officers, more especially of the junior grades, are in a state of pecuniary embarrassment at the present, than at any former time. We knew of one regiment, not long ago, in which the aggregate debts of the officers exceeded a lakh of Rupees. It is also certain, that the accumulated debts of the army exceed a crore of Rupees. We attribute this in a great measure to the facility which was created by the Banks for obtaining loans. Mackay, in his admirable work, "the Western World," writing on the subject of the debts contracted by the States, the repudiation of which by some of them has brought obloquy on the whole Union, says, "The foreigner, that is, the American, says

an open hand with a full purse extended to him, was tempted to grasp at it, and his appetite for speculation was quickened by the ease with which he obtained the means of pandering to it." So, also, the officer seeing the open hand of the Bank with a full purse extended to him, was tempted to grasp at it, and his appetite for expense was quickened by the ease with which he could obtain the means of gratifying it. We have been informed by an officer of unimpeachable integrity, that soon after the Agent of the Agra Bank proceeded to Madras, the officers of more than one regiment, who before his advent were practicing the most laudable frugality, gradually launched out into extravagances before unknown. Neither is it correct to state that the majority of debts to the Bank are contracted to pay off old debts, not to contract new. We believe, the reverse is not only the fact. Some two or three years ago, the Agra Bank published a very particular statement of the classes to whom its capital had been lent. We are unable to lay our hands on this document, but if "Myram" can procure it, he will find that no small proportion of the officers to whom the Banks have given accommodation must have begun their career of debt in connection with that "Friend in Need" Society. He refers us to the Administrator's office to ascertain, whether the majority of the officers whose estates have passed into the hands of that officer have not died solvent. The suggestion is important, and we have lost no time in going over the last Schedule of estates published by the Administrator General, but it gives us no information by which this fact can be ascertained. It merely states the sum belonging to each estate in the Administrator's hands at a certain date. It is not drawn up with the view of showing the condition of each estate at the decease of the officer. In fact, it proves too much. From that statement it would appear, that scarcely a single officer has died in debt during the last five years.

**THE CHOWKEEDAREE TAX.**—We promised last week to offer some remarks on a brief article in the *Englishman*, relative to the Chowkeedaree tax. This tax was included by Mr. Anstey in the catalogue of grievances, which his peripatetic Commission was to investigate, and we pointed out that it was strictly municipal, and applied to municipal objects, and was exceedingly moderate in amount. It is, however, a fixed rate, and is not made to correspond with the value of the property, the highest assessment being two Rupees a month, on the palaces of the rich, the lowest two annas upon the huts of the poor. The *Englishman* seems to think that the tax is unequally and unjustly distributed; and as we have never ceased to raise our voice against its inequitable pressure on the different classes of society, we can most cordially second his remarks. Although the holders of the most destitute are exempt from this local taxation, yet, the Chowkeedaree tax does bear heavily on the poor; that is, more heavily than it ought to do; at the same time, it falls too lightly on the rich. The man whose house has cost him 60 Rs. pays two annas, while a mansion which has cost two thousand times that sum contributes only sixteen times more. No municipal house tax can ever be equitable unless it is levied on the principle of an ad valorem assessment. We are so very singular as to think that it is the duty of Government to revise the system of municipal taxation, and to redress this inequality, and we have not failed to bring the subject forward, time after time, in the hope, that by some unexpected turn of cir-

cumstances, in some happy moment, when the auspicious star of India happened to be in the ascendant, it might attract the attention of Government. It cannot be for the credit of the British nation, that ninety-four years after the battle of Plassey, the towns in Bengal and Behar, with some meritorious exceptions, should be as filthy and in as neglected a condition as they were before that event gave us the country.

The chowkeedaree assessment is a municipal tax, for municipal purposes, and the people have a right to know how it is raised and how it is expended. They have the same right to the accounts which the inhabitants of Calcutta have, to their own municipal accounts; but none are ever published. All those arrangements on the efficiency of which the cleanliness and salubrity of our towns depends, are withheld from public scrutiny. Yet, it would be difficult to shew any cause, why a statement of, at least, the receipts and disbursements in every town which pays the tax, should not be published annually in the official *Gazette*. The publication of it would not cost half as much as the stupid and utterly useless list of unclaimed native letters which now encumber the *Gazette*, from week to week; at the same time it would be very useful. There would be no small advantage in bringing all the accounts of the various towns into one point of view; it would afford the means of comparison; it would, also, furnish an article to the Calcutta papers when there was a dearth of news; and it might possibly catch the eye of some influential functionary of State, and induce him to press for a reform. It would likewise tend to remove the very unfavorable impression, now so general in the native community, that the officers of Government never take the least interest in the matter, but leave the funds in the hands of the "Buxeroes" who always helps himself to a larger share than even his legitimate perquisite amounts to.

The grand scheme of the Legislative Council for the establishment of Municipalities in India has failed, and failed totally. At Howrah, the Anglo-Saxons repudiated it; in other towns, the natives rejected it. In one settlement alone, that of Mussoorie, it is likely to take root and flourish. It is always better that our laws should be in advance of the age than behind it. In legislating for a civilized country like England, the laws are almost inevitably in the rear of public opinion, but when an enlightened Government makes laws for a semi-civilized and ignorant people, like those of India, they must necessarily be in advance of the country and the times. When, however, it is found, as in the case of the Municipal Act, that the country is altogether unprepared for such a system, it becomes the duty of the Legislature, instead of abandoning it altogether, to modify its provisions, and bring it into closer relation with the existing state of things. Now the present Chowkeedaree tax furnishes us with the elements of municipal institutions, that is, it gives us the funds and the system, and it may with perfect ease be gradually and imperceptibly modified so as not only to avoid wounding prejudices, but to command esteem and approbation. The present chowkeedaree system might in time be moulded into a vigorous and efficient municipality.—1. By changing the existing arbitrary assessment for an ad valorem tax of five per cent. on the annual value or rent of all houses. 2dly, By selecting four or five of the wealthiest and most influential natives of the town, on the recommendation of the Magistrate, and associating them with him in the management of the

Funds; and 3dly. By publishing, annually, a brief report, and a cash account of the transactions of the year in the official *Gazette*. These modifications,—we will not dignify them with the name of improvements—are so obvious, and so easy of accomplishment, that we feel confident of their being adopted one of these days, when the Legislative Council may be able to spare an hour from its present arduous and overwhelming engagements.

**THE HINDOO MOVEMENT.**—Last week we published an analysis of the proceedings of the great Hindoo Meeting held on the 26th May at the Oriental Seminary, and we cannot but think that the assembly itself, and the resolutions expressed and adopted at it, constitute one of the most important events that has occurred in India in the present century. It is not that we attach so much importance to the questions actually proposed at the Meeting, as to the general tendency of the arguments and opinions put forward by the most distinguished speakers. It was in fact, though not in name, a Hindoo protest against one of the more prominent evils of the system of caste, which has been for centuries considered the bulwark of Hindooism. It must be remembered that the gentlemen assembled at the Oriental Seminary on that day, did not belong to the party commonly called Young Bengal, and were generally suspected of a desire to shake off the trammels of caste altogether. The great majority of them consisted of men whose highest pride it has been to preserve the purity of their priestly lineage, and the minutiae of their religious observances. They were of the party among the natives who still consider a furrow cast at Wilson's oil-churn, and a beef, as an almost inexorable crime, who gather round them a whole establishment of pundits, and perform the duties of Hindoo gentlemen as those duties were understood two thousand years ago. The Chairman of the meeting was a Rajah, best known among his countrymen for his valuable contributions to Sanscrit literature, and his inflexible adherence to every dogma of the Purans. His chief supporter, Rajah Kaleo Krishna Bahadur, maintains a regular council of pundits, whose decisions upon matters of ceremonial or religious observance, carry as much weight in Calcutta, as those of the Pope in the Catholic churches of the continent. They are the very men who led the agitation against the Act for securing liberty of conscience, and who wish even now to strip every Christian convert of his ancestral patrimony. Yet it is men of this stamp, the most orthodox supporters of the ancient system, who have begun to acknowledge that the chain of caste is perhaps a little too tight, and that it may be possible to give additional strength to the body corporate by a slight relaxation of its stringency. The manner in which they propose to do this, is even more remarkable than the fact itself. Instead of proposing, as might have been expected, a form of expiation so tedious and severe, that none but those most earnest to be re-admitted would consent to undergo it, they propose a pecuniary gift, not in itself of large amount, and gradually diminishing with the caste of the person excommunicated.

We think the effects of this immense change may easily be foreseen. The natives declare that it is but a slight relaxation of the chain, and that the hardened caste remains unaltered, though the door of access and egress is a little widened. We believe, it will be so, and that the chain has not been tightened, but that now that has been



fled through. The institution of caste is in its very nature burdensome to all but those for whom it was framed, viz. the priestly order, that the smallest hospitals will be instantly taken advantage of and day by day rendered efficient. Caste must either exist in its entirety, or gradually come altogether. In Calcutta, at this present moment there are hundreds of young men, who, though not exactly Christians, are yet deeply convinced of the superiority of the Gospel over their own, and who would gladly embrace any opportunity of bursting their fetters and growing openly the convictions they secretly entertain. Hitherto, the great obstacle to such a course has been the very natural dread, that they must burn their ships behind them, and can never again be received among their own communion should a vacillation of opinion induce them to desire such a course. This dread will now be removed, that is, if the proposal made at the meeting, be carried. They may live to the latest moment of their lives as free from the bonds of caste as Europeans, and then by a donation and a dinner to the ever ready priest, restore, not only themselves, but their children, to the full enjoyment of the rights and privileges of Hindoos. The projectors of the scheme believe that many of those converted to Christianity would gladly return to their ancient creed, and the Editor of the *Bhaskar*, in particular, was very earnest in his declaration of the fact, and related a long story about one of Mr. Hill's converts, which may be all very true, but does not much affect the general question. It is very possible, that one or two unstable minds may be found, who will accept the permission to return to the favour of the Three hundred and thirty millions of Gods, and the sooner the ranks of Christianity are quit of them, the better; but as a general rule—the mind that has once emancipated itself from idol worship never returns again to this degradation. We think, moreover, that for every Hindoo who may return to his caste by this widening of the portal, a hundred will be induced to quit the institutions of Hindooism.

We have one more word to say, and it is rather for our readers in England than those in India. We have heard a great deal too much of late of the small number of converts made in Bengal, and of the gradual extinction of Missionary usefulness. The Meeting of which we have just spoken, is in itself a sufficient answer to all such calumnies. The very foundations of native society must have been shaken, before men, aptly described more Hindoo than Poorana, would come forward with a proposal for lightening the massive chain which for two thousand years has crushed the intellectual and religious activity of one-eighth of the human race, and, that, for the avowed object of saving Hindooism from the encroachments of Christianity. The Meeting, it is evident, looked upon the Missionaries as the great enemies whose exertions and activity required to be baffled, and while they acknowledged that it was hopeless to attempt to supplant them as educators of youth, declared that their influence was making itself felt through every grade of native society.

**MAHARAJA—THE ROBERT OF AGA BAKER.**—The *Madras* steamer which arrived last week, has brought us our usual file of the local journals, but some of our contemporaries who have received their copies state that they contain little of importance, which in some measure accounts us to the loss. We learn, however, that the Government of Bengal, on

hearing of the daring robbery committed in the house of Aga Baker on the 5th of March last, ordered a searching enquiry to be instituted into the matter, and that a Report of the enquiry has been sent up by the present steamer.

The results of this investigation is of course unknown to us, but some of the facts elicited in the course of it, have, as might have been expected, got wind, and they are said to relieve the Police from the charge of extreme negligence, which was naturally brought against it by the general voice of society, when the naked circumstances of the case were first presented to public view. The success of that attack is to be attributed partly to the neighbourhood of a foreign territory, to which the robbers were able to escape, but into which our own Police are not permitted to follow them, and partly to the numerical deficiency of the police of the town, and the consequent panic which overpowered them, on the appearance of an armed body in formidable numbers. It appeared in evidence, that the police was not taken by surprise, but was simply paralyzed. The robbers came down in two Burness racing boats, with twenty-five determined and well armed men in each; the river guard boats were only two in number, and one contained eight, and the other nine men, and could have offered no resistance. The number of men on duty in the neighbourhood of the robbery, did not exceed twenty, whereas the robbers mustered from sixty to seventy men, and kept up a brisk fire of musketry. The peon who was on duty in front of the house of Aga Baker, saw the dacoits as soon as they landed, and challenged them, and when they advanced in force towards him, fired his pistol at them, and retired for aid. Two others of the town guard who were within a hundred yards of the house, but who were cut off from any direct communication with the town, ran to the Main guard in the Cantonments, and gave the alarm. We are credibly informed that the *Goung* and *peons* fired on the assailants from the shelter of the house, and that two other guard boats came up and exchanged a few shots; but it is manifest that both the land and river police kept at a very respectable distance, and were exceedingly unwilling to endanger their persons. The present establishment of Guards in the town stands in every respect on the same footing on which it was placed by Mr. Colvin, with the advice of Major Bower, Captain Phayre, and Captain Sparks, and in ordinary cases it has seldom failed to render good service.

In the past year, there were four cases of murder or manslaughter, and all the offenders in each case were arrested. Of three dacoities committed, the robbers were in each case captured, and in two punished. Of the property reported to have been stolen in the course of that year in the town and district amounting to Rs. 12,702, Rs. 5114 were recovered, which is a larger proportion than the Police Reports of other places are usually able to exhibit. But though the police is reported to have been kept vigilantly to their duties, they were not prepared to meet an invasion like that of the 5th of March, and when the robbers came down in such force as to show plainly that they had calculated on overpowering the police, the police was found wanting. We are happy to learn that some of the Dacoits have been taken, and that one of them has made a confession which implicates many others, and may lead to the detection of the gang. This explanation of the circumstances of the robbery, which was obtained in the course of the investigation, we deem it a matter of simple justice to make as public as the censure

which we thought it necessary to bestow on the Police establishment of the town, when the case of this daring and successful attack was first announced.

**REPORT OF THE FREE SCHOOL, FOR 1886.**—We regret that we have allowed the report of this excellent Institution to be so long on our table without a notice. The information it contains is not particularly novel or interesting, but it shows that the school is in a flourishing condition on all its branches. The number of male pupils on the 1st January 1886 was 246, and, of female pupils 147, making a total of 393 children, supported and educated by the Foundation. Of the boys only one was expelled during the year, a fact which speaks well for the discipline of the establishment, and four died, being an average mortality of one and a quarter per cent. Eight boys have been apprenticed under the new Act, six of them being taken by Mr. Gray, the proprietor of the *Markham Press*, after they had acquired some knowledge of the trade at the School of Industry. We are the more rejoiced to notice this fact, because one of the greatest obstacles with which these Schools have to contend, is the difficulty of providing employment for the pupils, after they have acquired sufficient instruction, and have reached the maximum age allowed by the rules of the Foundation. We believe this evil is most severely felt at the *Martiniere*, the rules of which absolutely compel the Governors to remove any boy who has attained the maximum age, whether he has any future means of subsistence, or not. It was with a view of removing this dangerous restriction, that the pupils comparatively independent, that the present Secretary to the Free School introduced the School of Industry into the establishment, and thus enabled the boys to acquire a practical knowledge of several trades. We are sorry to see that the special subscriptions for this branch of the Institution, which we consider by far the most important, amounted last year to only Rs. 163, while those for general purposes were Rs. 2542. Mr. Gray, who appears to take a great interest in the prosperity of the School, has also given his annual appeal, but we think the report of the answers to the questions proposed, might have been omitted from the report. Mr. Gray's report is very remarkable in any way, and Sigda is not a city of Hindoos, as one of the answers certifies.

# WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, MAY 20.

—The weather is really becoming so extraordinary, that we feel inclined, like our contemporary of the *Madras Spectator*, to chronicle its changes. We have felt nothing like the heat of the last two days, since the year 1867, when all the Courts in Calcutta were obliged to close, Judges, Juries, and Counsel being alike in a permanent vapour bath. The thermometer in our office rose at three o'clock on Wednesday to 90°, and the wind was positively scorching. In many districts, the want of rain is beginning to be acutely felt, and at Madras, the whole population have turned out to dig a tank. Along the line of the Railway, also, particularly on this side of Burdwan, the villagers are suffering severely for want of water.

—The *Citizen* in writing the obituary notice of Mrs. Johnston, the widow of a Sergeant Major, who died lately at Serampore, doubts whether it is a case of real distress, as the widow is "at the residence of her son, and surrounded by numerous relations." We believe this is not one of the ordinary cases in which the public are appealed to do to that which should be done by the relatives, as the widow's son has we know, been out of employ for years, and is barely able to obtain food for himself, and the "mourning relations," if such exist, are not in circumstances to afford her the smallest assistance.

—A correspondent of the *Madras* Correspondence announces the establishment of a Reading Club at Travancore, the residence of the Maharajah of Travancore. It appears that the Free School supported by the Maharajah, and the Missionary School, which the Maharajah has donated the knowledge of English, and a desire for further information among a large class of Natives and East Indians, and it has been resolved to found a Library for the circulation of books and newspapers in English and the vernacular. A sum of Rs. 400 has been subscribed for the purchase of books, and every person who subscribes for a journal, and donates it to be circulated among the members, is allowed all the privileges of the Library free of charge. By this plan, the Library is enabled to circulate nine periodicals, one of which, as a matter of course, is the *Illustrated London News*. We were not aware that the Maharajah has not a larger circulation among the natives of In-

















**CALCUTTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL BOOK SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS.**

G. C. HAY AND CO.

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# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. & O. CO.'S STEAMER "HADDON," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.**  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Europe, and the intermediate Ports (London, Cologne, Antwerp, Brussels, and Hamburg), intended for transmission by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer "HADDON," will be despatched on Wednesday, the 20th July, and that an after packet will be despatched from Calcutta on Thursday, the 21st July, with the ordinary Mail, to be received at Calcutta on Friday, the 22nd July. The public are particularly requested to send their letters for the "HADDON" on or before the 19th July, so that they may be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

**REPORT OVERLAND EXPRESS MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
NOTICE is hereby given that an Express Packet (carrying exclusively of Overland Mail, and exceeding the prescribed Maximum weight of 400 Tons in the packet) intended for transmission by the Bombay Mail, will be despatched on Saturday, the 14th July, and that an after packet will be despatched from Calcutta on Sunday, the 15th July, with the ordinary Mail, to be received at Calcutta on Monday, the 16th July. The public are particularly requested to send their letters for the "EXPRESS" on or before the 13th July, so that they may be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

Deputy Post Master General, Calcutta.  
Genl. Post Office, 10th June, 1851.

**COMMISSIONERS OF EQUITY IN INDIA.**—While Mr. Anstey is proposing to Parliament to send out a Commission of Enquiry to India, to examine the state of the public administration, Lord Dalhousie appears to be anticipating his wishes by the appointment of a number of Local Commissioners to investigate the state of various departments of the public service. In fact, we may almost affirm that the establishment of these Commissions, has been the distinguishing feature of his Lordship's administration. They are composed of some of the ablest and most experienced public servants, and are authorized to call for all evidence, oral and documentary, and to make a searching enquiry into the state and condition of the public establishments placed under their revision. They are of far greater utility than any Commissioners sent out from England could possibly be, for their ignorance of the subjects submitted to their investigation, would deprive their reports of all value. These local Commissions have also the additional merit of being economical. Within the last fifteen months, we have had no fewer than five such Commissions in Calcutta. The Commission of Police Enquiry has been the van. The universal dissatisfaction expressed by all classes at the state of the Police in the metropolis, brought on the necessity of investigation; and one of the ablest Judges of the Sudder Court, and the Superintendent of Police, were instructed to form themselves into a Committee; and to receive evidence from all parties willing to give it, regarding the condition of the Police. The result of their enquiries has been a complete and organic reformation of the whole system of metropolitan Police, by which such security has been given to life and property in Calcutta as its inhabitants have never enjoyed before. If we may judge from the reports in the public papers, that we are always more disposed to magnify than to conceal offences, decency in Calcutta is now as rare as it recently was common.

The presence of the Police is felt, not by the extensions of its jurisdiction, but by the protection it affords. The highest praise of a police establishment is that it should seldom or never be alluded to. That it should be so, is not only a mark of its beneficial influence in itself, but also a mark of its beneficial influence in the eyes of the public.

the less occasion is there for saying any thing about it, and the Calcutta Police, under the new regime, appears to have attained this state of efficiency. Some have complained that the Report of the Commissioners has never been made public, but they have only to picture to themselves the kind of mischievous might have been expected from Lord Dalhousie, if it had been prematurely and "perniciously" promulgated, to appreciate the discretion which has withheld it. 2. Then came the Commission of Post Office Enquiry, consisting of three Commissioners, one from Bengal, the other from Madras, and a third from Bombay, who have thoroughly investigated the state of our postal arrangements throughout India, and examined into the circumstances of the country and the state of the public Commissions, and the introduction of these matches a great improvement. Last year a similar match was introduced in England, and in the last ten years. Their report has now been transmitted to the Governor General, and it is to be hoped that his Lordship will feel himself justified in ordering the reforms they propose, to be carried into immediate execution. When we remember how eagerly the Court of Directors seized the first opportunity of announcing in Parliament, that they had sanctioned the outlay of no less a sum than half a Million Sterling for the Punjab Canals, there is a moral certainty, that they will rejoice to be enabled, at the beginning of the next Session, when the Parliamentary Committee is appointed, to announce that they have spontaneously, and without the smallest hesitation, and of their own free will and mere motion, agreed to all the measures of Post Office Reform that the Committee suggested. They know the value of so popular a topic of congratulation at so important a crisis, and so far from begrudging a few thousand pounds for the purpose of Postal Reform, they will doubtless be all the better pleased, if they are enabled to ask commendation for the magnitude of the sacrifice they have made for the good of India in this important department. 3. While the Post Office Committee was sitting, Lord Dalhousie availed himself of the presence of Major Kennedy in Calcutta, and appointed him with two others to investigate the nature and the defects of the system under which the Public Works at this Presidency have been conducted. They have sifted the matter to the bottom, and are said to have pointed out the anomalies and inefficiencies of the present arrangement with the utmost courage and boldness, and enforced the necessity of a radical reform. 4. As soon as their labors were closed, another body of experienced officers was formed into a Committee of Enquiry into the abuses of the Commissariat system. Major Pearsall may claim half the merits of this Commission, for it is much to be questioned, whether the appointment of it would have been deemed as indispensable, if he had not resigned Government, that the day when "the man who was allowed to make out a bill, made a fortune," had turned up again. Their investigation embraces a large sphere of enquiry, and extends to every branch of the Commissariat system, both at this Presidency and at Madras and Bombay. Lastly, we have a Stend Commission about to commence its sittings in Calcutta, with Sir Walker Gilbert as

President. Their duty will be to ascertain whether the present expensive Stend establishments might not be dispensed with, and a reform of its good, if not better, horses, obtained at a more reasonable rate by foreign importation. These various Commissions will furnish Government with a body of full, authentic, and impartial information, which may with confidence be made the basis of new operations.

Mr. JAMES SLICK BECKINGHAM.—We learn from the papers that a proposal has been made in Parliament to indemnify Mr. Buckingham to the extent of 10,000, for the losses he sustained through his violent deportation, and the destruction of his establishment by the Government of this Presidency in 1823. That transaction is one of the darkest in the history of our Indian empire; and the Leadenhall Street headquarters of British India, Mr. Thornton, has acted wisely and discreetly in omitting to give the smallest notice of it in his pages. Twenty-eight years have elapsed since it was perpetrated, but the dark deeds of tyranny never grow antiquated. By a wise dispensation of Providence, intended doubtless to promote the happiness of mankind, they remain ever fresh in the recollections of men, and every successive age renews the retribution due to them, by inflicting upon them the rigors of its own abhorrence. Mr. Adam was reckoned one of the very ablest servants of Government, and had no doubt done the state good service, yet his name is remembered in India only in connection with the odious Regulation which abolished the liberty of the Press, and his atrocious conduct towards Mr. Buckingham. We rejoice to find that the treatment to which Mr. Buckingham was subjected has been again brought under the notice of Parliament. It is not too late for the House of Commons to redress the injustice which was then committed, and to grant a tardy compensation to this victim of tyranny, now bending under the weight of years and misfortune.

Mr. Buckingham came out to India in 1818, and established the *Calcutta Journal*, and within a twelvemonth, raised Calcutta journalism from the depth of degradation to which it had fallen under the withering despotism of the times. His journal rapidly rose in popularity, through the talent it exhibited, and the indefatigable industry and admirable tact of the Editor. But no journal could possibly expect to acquire popularity at that period, except by the free and fearless discussions of the measures of Government and its functionaries. The *Calcutta Journal* was, therefore, soon felt to be too free for the servile character of the age, in which the slightest criticism of public measures, if in any degree unfavourable, was considered treasonable. A journal, which dared to suggest that all the proceedings of Government were not invariably and necessarily, the best, the wisest, and the justest, and that all the servants of Government were not gifted with infinite wisdom,—not excepting even the fool in the Provincial Court of Dacca who decided the merits of the cases brought before him by a fool rule, under the sage conviction that the man whose plaint or answer was the longest must have most justice on his side—was considered unfit to remain

in India. Lord Hastings was a nobelman of the most liberal and enlightened views, and had abolished the odious censorship imposed by Lord Wellesley. But he was still constrained to prohibit editors publishing "animadversions on the measures and proceedings of the Hon. the Court of Directors, or other public authorities in England, connected with the Government of India, or disquisitions on political transactions of the local administration, or offensive remarks levelled at the public conduct of the members of the Council, of the Judges, of the Supreme Court, or of the Bishop of Calcutta." It was scarcely possible for the *Calcutta Journal*, in the spirit in which it was conducted, to avoid trespassing on some of these subjects, and Lord Hastings was repeatedly importuned to suppress the obnoxious journal, now by the Bishop of Calcutta, and then by the Governor of Madras, but he steadily refused to grant their demand. Had the times been propitious, Lord Hastings would doubtless have anticipated Lord William Bentinck in the abolition of Sutees, and Sir Charles Metcalfe in the liberation of the Press. As it was, while he determined not to stifle the *Calcutta Journal*, he warned Mr. Buckingham of the risk he ran by continuing to indulge in those free remarks which were so galling to the sensitive members of Government, and Mr. Buckingham shewed us two private letters he had received from Lord Hastings, written with his own hand, and in the most friendly spirit, remonstrating with him on the course he was pursuing, and advising him to adopt a course of greater moderation. Lord Hastings's noble view regarding the liberty of the Press were embodied in the following reply to the address from Madras, to the last paragraph of which we would ask the reader's particular attention.

"One topic remains—my removal of restrictions from the Press, has been mentioned in laudatory language. I might easily have adopted that procedure without any length of cautious consideration, and my habit of regarding the freedom of publication as a natural right of my Fellow Subjects, to be narrowed only by special and urgent cases assigned. The rising to direct necessity for these tedious shackles, might have sufficed to make me break them. I know myself, however, to have been guided in the step by a positive and well-weighed policy. If our motives of action are worthy, it must be wise to render them intelligible throughout an Empire, our boldness which is wisdom."

"Further, it is salutary for supreme authority, even when its intentions are most pure, to look to the countenance of public scrutiny. While cautious of rectitude, that authority can lose nothing of its strength by its exposure to general censure. On the contrary, it acquires incalculable addition of force."

Mr. Buckingham had collected around him a group of young men belonging to the public service, of the highest talent, and aspirations, who could ill brook the haughty despotism of the senior members of the Government, and who were ever watching for opportunities of exposing them. Their impetuosity often carried Mr. Buckingham beyond the bounds of discretion. They were moving in the highest circle of society, and were enabled, from personal observation, to give poignancy to their attacks. Gradually, a high tip-top party was formed among the members of Government, with feelings of the most deadly hostility to the liberty of the Press in general, and to Buckingham's journal in particular. Of this party, John Adam, the Chief Secretary to Government, was either the head, or the tool. Dr. Bryce was one of its most active members. While Lord Hastings continued at the helm of affairs, they could only growl and threaten. But his Lordship left India at the close of 1829, and the post of Governor-General fell temporarily to the lot of Mr. Adam, and his party determined to take the earliest opportunity of wreaking their vengeance on

the obnoxious Buckingham. There were two ladies in the case, and they gave additional zeal and animation to the crusade. In other cases in which the Government had been advised to take the field against the Press, there was the colour of public policy, as it was then understood or misunderstood, to afford some plausible excuse for acts, or threats, of violence. Thus, Mr. Bruce and Dr. Shoolbred having stated in the Asiatic Mirror, that the Europeans in this country were so small a body compared with the Natives, that if every Native were to throw a pebble at us, we should be overwhelmed, the journal was ordered to be discontinued, and the two editors were directed to take themselves off by the first ship. But they made timely and successful submission. Again, at a time when the army was in a state of dissatisfaction, an editor of a newspaper advertised a pamphlet on the "rights," or the "wrongs" of the army, and he was immediately shipped for England. In both these cases, the Government was in a most patriotic funk, and dreaded lest the papers might stir the natives or the Europeans up to a sudden flood of mutiny. When an article appeared in the Quarterly *Friend of India*, pointing out in the most mild, inoffensive, and, as it now reads, in the most milk and water strain, the glory which would attend the abolition of the burning of widows, Mr. John Adam took the number into Council, he being Secretary, and strongly advised the suppression of the journal, which had bronched opinions calculated to irritate the Natives, and sap the foundation of our empire. Lord Hastings said he had read the article, and thought it abundantly innocent. But Mr. Adam was on that occasion animated doubtless by conscientious, though utterly erroneous opinion of the duties of Government. A comparison of those days with the present, when we have the unbounded liberty of printing, will strongly shew what cowards men become when in the wrong path, and how they are startled at every shadow in the dark, and how their courage and resolution rise when once they get into the right one, and their way is illuminated by the light of truth.

In the case of Buckingham, however, there was no such conscientious or patriotic excuse. The treatment he received was not the offspring of despotism, but of tyranny. The occasion which was seized for immolating him and his prospects, casts a shade of infamy on all the parties concerned in the transaction. The *Harkara* has disintegrated the proceedings, and we must all aid in giving them a new lease of life. The Hon. Dr. Bryce, the Senior Minister of the Scotch Kirk, in Calcutta, was appointed Superintendent of the Stationary office. The appointment was one of the most profligate jobs which had ever been perpetrated at this Presidency, and it immediately became the subject of ridicule in the columns of the *Calcutta Journal*. The editor censured with the keenest irony, the inconsistency of withdrawing a Minister of the Gospel from his sacred function, to the securing of tape and the counting of sticks of sealing wax. This was an attack on one of the Government party, and it was determined to visit it with the severest penalty. Mr. Buckingham was instantly banished from the country, his printing establishment, which had been built up with so much labor and expense, was destroyed, and his prospects in life were blasted. It was followed, we believe, by the enactment of a Regulation which placed the Press, periodical or non-periodical, at the mercy of Government, and it was under this law, that the most atrocious libels were freely allowed to appear in the journals which belonged to the ruling

party, while any journal which exhibited any liberality of views was persecuted, if not suppressed.—We are happy to find that there is some hope of redress for Mr. Buckingham, even after the lapse of so long a period; and we sincerely trust that Parliament will restore him some portion of the property of which he was so nefariously deprived.

#### CAPTAIN BARBER'S WORD IS SACROSANCT.

We have just received a pamphlet with this title, addressed to the Civil and Military services of India. It is ostensibly designated "Thoughts on the financial condition of the officers of the Indian Army, with a view to assist in emancipating them from their present difficulty, and to suggest an equitable system by which their future loan operations should be regulated." But it is, in reality, a proposal for establishing a "New Universal Life and Loan Assurance Company" with Captain Barber as the Managing Director, with the usual salary and allowances. The pamphlet informs us, however, that this Assurance Company was not to be established, unless the Directors of four of the Institutions to whom Capt. Barber submitted his plans, the Universal, the Asylum, the Family Endowment, and the London and Liverpool offices declined "to take his hint," of emancipating the officers of the Indian Army from their present difficulties, by lending their money at five per cent. Capt. Barber placed himself in communication with these Companies, and by way of encouraging them to send out their capital to the aid of the army, informed them that "a great portion of those who own money were men with such other undeniable claims on their means, that to extricate themselves under present circumstances was a forlorn hope." At the same time, he appealed to the sympathies and feelings of these Commercial Institutions, by saying that "hundreds of the officers of the Army were laboring under the sting of conscience and struggling to relieve themselves, and their securities, from the dead weight that, through folly or impulse, they have brought to press so heavily on them." "This is the class," said he, "I would endeavor to set free." But Assurance Companies can have no bowels; they have nothing to do but with the cold calculation of pounds, shillings and pence. So three out of four said "Won't," in the very polite sort of terms; while the fourth said that "the matter was under consideration in common with other matters appertaining to India." But we can confidently predict, that when they come to look into the matter more closely, they also will find, like the other Companies, that "such an undertaking would involve them in liabilities incompatible with the general scope of their business," and Captain Barber will be constrained at last to set up his own New Universal Life and Loan Assurance Company.

There can be no doubt, that the officers of the army, who are now, according to his account, paying the Banks 20 per cent., would cheerfully borrow from this Company at Five per Cent., and cut the Banks altogether; and that he will find no lack of customers. When money could be obtained only at the exorbitant rate of twenty-five per cent. per annum from Native money lenders, the officers of the Army were comparatively free from debt. The reduction of the interest to sixteen, and twenty per cent., by the Banks, produced the immediate effect of increasing the number of debtors; and there can be little doubt that a still further diminution of interest to five per cent., exclusive of insurance and discounts,—will create a demand for money, which it will be difficult to satisfy.

Captain Barber's difficulty, therefore, will consist not in getting men to borrow from him, but in inducing men of prudence to lend their money upon so hazardous a footing, at five per cent., to the officers of the Indian army. But supposing this important obstacle to be overcome, we do not see how the Conditions of his "Loan office" will meet the exigencies of the Indian service. He has determined that under no circumstance shall the amount lent to any one Regiment exceed 30,000 Rs. But there are Regiments already a lakh of Rupees in debt, and two-thirds of every such Regiment must therefore be left "to labor under the sting of conscience" without any hope of being "restored to that independence of mind and action which," in Captain Barber's estimation, "can never be rightly felt or understood by a man involved deeply in debt." The conditions appear to be vague, intangible, and unsatisfactory. The second Rule states that "in no instance shall a loan be granted except under the joint security of all the officers of the corps, the deed to be signed by one officer of each grade, and the Adjutant for the time being." This rule is framed under the supposition that the loan is to be granted to the Regiment collectively; but Regiments do not thus borrow as a body, except for the purchase of steps in which all are interested; and the debts thus contracted bear but a very small proportion to those which are taken up by individual officers. If the Loan office is only to relieve Regiments, it will of course be of the smallest possible utility. If Captain Barber, however, proposes that no loan shall be given to any individual officer except on the joint security of all the officers of the corps, why, the plan is absolutely impracticable. In no case can all the officers of a Regiment be prevailed on to exact the folly of rendering themselves responsible for the debts of some extravagant Ensign, who is anxious to outrun his means.—The Army must evidently get over its present difficulties without much assistance from the New Universal Life and Loan Assurance Company. As regards the past, Capt. Barber proposes to limit its accommodation to 30,000 Rs. a Regiment, and to grant no higher aggregate sum than about Thirty lakhs of Rupees to the Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery and Engineer corps at this Presidency, at a time, when the accumulated debts of the Army exceed a Crore of Rupees. As regards the future, it is not by offering the temptation of loans at five per cent., but by inculcating a principle of the most rigid economy and self-denial, and by prevailing on the officers to eschew all borrowing at any rate, however tempting, that the army can ever be placed on that footing of independence which shall produce comfort and honor.

**THE MYSTERIES OF CHERRA.**—We received a letter from Mr. Harry Inglis last week, just after the number of this journal was completed, and were therefore obliged to postpone the publication of it to the present week. It will be found among our correspondence. It does not appear to require any extended comment. It admits all the facts stated in our previous article—that in an answer which Mr. Gibson had occasion to file in a previous suit, it was stated that "the case was prompted by Plaintiff who had returned the necessary witnesses,"—that Mr. Inglis brought an action for libel for these expressions in the Assistant's Court at Cherra, laying his damages at 10,000 Rs.—that Mr. Gibson stated in his defence that the obnoxious passage was inserted without his privity,—that the Assistant found the docu-

ment so carefully signed and corrected, that he said, it was difficult to believe that such could be the case, without proof to that effect, and that he condemned Mr. Gibson to a fine of FIVE THOUSAND Rupees;—that Mr. Inglis, the son-in-law of the Political Agent, and that he enjoys the most unbounded influence over the Natives. We can therefore with perfect confidence repeat our former assertion, that "the influence of Mr. Inglis is so extensive, the dread of his power so profound and universal, and the timidity of the native character so great, that no case in which he is interested has the remotest chance of an equitable decision at Cherra." Mr. Inglis is the *de facto* sovereign of the country, and the man must be possessed of singular courage or temerity, who would venture to oppose him in his own domains. Under such circumstances, an action for libel brought by Mr. Inglis against a rival in trade, ought not to have been tried at Cherra. But, independently of this circumstance, the Act which subjects Europeans to the Company's Civil Courts, does not appear from the wording of it, to extend to the non-regulation provinces, and the judicial authorities of Cherra cannot possibly have been ignorant, that a reference on this subject had been made to the Sudder Court, to which no reply had, at the time, been given. While a question of such vital importance, involving the competency of the Courts at Cherra to entertain such a case at all, was under discussion in Calcutta, the investigation and decision of this libel suit by that local tribunal, cannot be accounted for on any principle which will bear examination.

In reply to Mr. Inglis's enquiry, we desire to inform him, that Mr. Gibson is no relative of the Editor of this journal, who has seen him but twice in his life. Neither has he had any grounds to reckon on the support of this "infidential journal," as it is designated by Mr. Inglis. We have all along advised Mr. Gibson to quit that part of the country, where the influence of his rival was more powerful than that of Government, and to turn his attention to some other enterprise in some other quarter. With the fate of the unfortunate Mr. Jones before him, we considered it an act of the highest indiscretion to attempt any opposition to Mr. Inglis's interests. We certainly should never have alluded to the subject of these disputes between Mr. Inglis and Mr. Gibson in our columns, but for the decree of the Assistant, awarding 5000 Rs. damages against the latter, for having put in a document, stating "that the case was prompted by the plaintiff who had suborned the necessary witnesses," after Mr. Gibson had distinctly informed the Assistant, that these expressions were inserted without his privity, and had offered the fullest apology for having inadvertently filed such a document with his signature. We cannot trust ourselves to designate this decision as it deserves; we will, therefore, simply state that this most extraordinary decision is without a parallel in the reports of our Courts, and has filled every eye who has heard of it with feelings infinitely stronger than those of surprise. There is no Court in India, we believe, in which more than nominal damages would have been given, even if any had been given at all; and the mere fact that such a judgment has been passed, affords the strongest reason for a thorough investigation into the state of the judicial establishments in that remote corner of the empire.

Mr. Inglis taunts us with making "dark insinuations," but no one knows better than he does, that the Press at this Presidency, in all its discussions relative to these most extraordinary

transactions at Cherra, is obliged to act with a halter about its neck. He knows perfectly well, that one unguarded expression, a single adjective, embodying those generous feelings of indignation which a view of the state of Cherra suggests, would be followed by an instant action for libel in the Supreme Court. It is necessary that this fact should be distinctly understood by the executive Government, when the cautious, and as the *Eastern Star* well styles it, the "guarded grumbings" of the press, come under its notice. The late Mr. Jones was subjected to an action for libel in the Supreme Court for writing two letters. An action was brought against the Raja of Jynteah for 50,000 Rs. for defamation of character, when he sent in certain statements obnoxious to Mr. Inglis, and now, Mr. Gibson has been subjected to a fine of Rs. 5000 in the petty tribunal of the Assistant at Cherra. With these examples before them, the Press must more warily. Even the *Citizen*, usually bold as a lion, is cowed. But we have no doubt, that the time is rapidly approaching, when the press will be at liberty to speak out; and when it will be able to bring forward circumstances which shall shake not only the confidence of Government, but that of Mr. Dunbar himself, in the justice of that decision, which, though passed after a conscientious investigation, still sealed the doom of the poor mountaineers.

We extract the following very appropriate remarks on this subject from the *Eastern Star*—

"We are convinced that ere long the Bengal Government will find it advisable to believe, that beneath the guarded grumbling of the Press, some unpleasant truths are concealed, truths which at 5000 Rupees a piece would be rather dearly sold, and find it worth its members have fared by the errors of the law, the force of power, and the weight of influence. We have said that the social condition of society is and about the Gueyah hills, is not creditable to the Anglo-Indian Community residing there, and we may add that even this itself is no anomalous and unbecoming, as to convey at once an impression that there must be something very wrong indeed to have seen the state of clamor in the jungle, where its members have lived and died for the last few years, as the following items will prove. A clergyman hunted down, ruined, and dead of fever contracted in the jungle, where he had been employed as Assistant to the Political Agent, and by Gibson sent to retire; a female nurse in the service exchanged between a Cherra and a native officer on leave; an Assistant Surgeon removed by the Commisary-in-Chief from his regiment at the former place; a Judge by the Bengal Government from his bench at the latter; a Magistrate superceded from the same place; family, jealousy, feud, hate, party spirit, violation and perversion, which have torn the society into factions and camps, and raised those who are to be seen travelling together in three army and mutual defence and uncharitable. This is the actual state of society in the Gueyah hills at the moment we write and will remain as an example to the primitive people who inhabit them, of English uncharitableness. All evil passions will eventually be extinguished, and a clear stage and no favor in a political, mercantile, and social sense thrown open to every one, civilized or savage."

**MILITARY MESSES.**—We stated last week that a Circular Order had just been issued from the office of the Adjutant General, requiring an exact return of the general expenses of each Mess at this Presidency, and its distribution among the individual members of the Regiment, as well as the financial position of each Mess at the period indicated. This proceeding cannot be too warmly commended. Without such a statement, the Commander-in-Chief would have been legislating entirely in the dark regarding Military Messes, and might have opened a new source of embarrassment to the army by making them compulsory. With the ample statements before him which have now been received, his Excellency will be able at a glance to perceive the effect for good or evil, which all existing Messes have produced, as well as how far they have

contributed to promote economy, or to increase debt. The return from the best managed Messes, will show that they may be made a blessing; the returns from those which have been mismanaged and which have added a regimental debt to individual embarrassments, will show how far the representation of those writers is to be depended on, who affirm that they have been and are in many cases, 'curses.' The comparison of the returns from the different Messes will illustrate more than one interesting question connected with the mode of the army; at the same time, the fear of inspection at Head Quarters must have a salutary tendency to check extravagance.

The course which those at the head of the army are now pursuing, not only removes all apprehension regarding the result of rendering Messes compulsory, but enables us to contemplate their establishment on this footing with satisfaction. The social, and individual, and professional advantages which would flow from the extension of them throughout the army are not denied, but the one great objection to them is the probable pecuniary embarrassment they might, under existing circumstances, entail on the army. But if they are to be placed under the eye of the Commandant of the Regiment, and if he is to be considered responsible for all unnecessary expense which may be indulged in, and the debts which may be incurred, then, the Messes may be made a powerful auxiliary to the cause of economy, and become a real blessing to the army. In order, however, to secure this object permanently, it will be necessary to direct that a similar statement to that which has now been ordered, shall be sent up from each Mess, without fail, at the close of every half year, that the Adjutant General may have an opportunity of drawing up for the Commander-in-Chief's inspection, a comparative view of the result of each Mess during this period, and that His Excellency may be enabled to demand immediate explanations of the cause of any extravagance which may have crept into it. The natural consequence of this last yearly comparison will be, that Messes will come to be regarded as establishments intended to promote not only good feeling, but also economy in the Regiments, and that the least expensive Messes will gradually be considered as the standard of excellence.

**THE WEATHER AND THE SUPPLY OF WATER IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY.**—Last Saturday morning the first quarter of the moon brought us a sudden and most auspicious change in the weather. The thermometer fell ten degrees, and has since continued at the same low temperature, and the country round has been blessed with rain, which may yet save the crops. The heat of the previous month has been without a parallel since the year 1837, when the thermometer rose in many houses, as it did in the present year, to 100° in the shade. We may now consider the rains fairly set in; in all the most bliseful effects of it will be rapidly to fill the tanks, now completely exhausted, and to afford an adequate supply of water for man and beast. It is to this subject, we make bold to call the attention of the public authorities. Those who live on the banks of a large and copious river, cannot picture to themselves the distress experienced by those who reside eight, ten, or fifteen miles from any stream. The tanks from which their wants are supplied begin to dry up as the hot weather advances, and for three months in the year, they are subject to all the fearful effects of a deficiency of water. In ordinary years, they are constrained to use the muddy

and fetid water found at the bottom of the tanks, to the great detriment of their health, but in a year like the present, the tanks are completely dried up, and they can obtain no supply for their families or their cattle, without a journey of sixteen or twenty miles. In some places where the ostentatious benevolence of Hindoos has taken a right direction, large tanks have been excavated, which supply the country during the dry months with wholesome water, but a Hindoo is much sadder of building ghats on the banks of the river, for the convenience of worship and bathing,—which are always called by his own name,—than of digging tanks in the interior of the country, where little, if any, fame is to be acquired. Hence one of the most fruitful sources of distress and disease in the interior of the country, is the want of an adequate supply of good and wholesome water for four or five months in the year. In nothing was the conduct of the former rulers of India more advantageously distinguished from that of its present Governors, than in the magnificent reservoirs which they constructed in various parts of the country, and which still remain to attest their benevolence, and to call down benedictions on their memory. A greater boon could not be conferred on the country, than to promote the construction of large tanks, in those localities where water is scarce. We therefore, venture to suggest to the Government of Bengal, that the officers employed on the Revenue Survey now in progress throughout the country, should be instructed to ascertain, and note down on their maps, the number of tanks of any magnitude which exist, and which are annually available for the exigencies of the people, and to make a distinct report of the extent to which those parts of the country which are not in the immediate vicinity of rivers, are possessed of facilities for obtaining an ample supply of wholesome water throughout the year.

**THE DISSENTER'S MARRIAGE ACT IN INDIA.**—The London Times informs us that on the 10th of April last, "the Marquis of Breadalbane presented a petition in the House of Lords from the Free Church Assembly of Scotland, complaining of the law in regard to the celebration of marriages in India by Dissenting Clergymen and praying for relief, on which Lord Broughton said it was his intention to bring in a bill to remove the evils of which the Petitioners complained, and he trusted it would be approved of by that and the other House of Parliament." Here the conversation dropped, and the Marquis was, to all appearance, perfectly satisfied that the object of the petitioners had been completely gained. Had he been a little better acquainted with the nature of the case, as with the former history and present position of the question, he would have perceived at once that nothing could have been more disastrous, or more calculated to damp the hopes of success, than to find that Lord Broughton, late Sir John Hobhouse, had taken the Act under his charge. We have lately quoted from our contemporaries a statement that Dr. Duff recently waited on Sir Edward Ryan in London, and was informed by him, that a Draft Act on this subject had been sent out to Calcutta, and returned with sundry proposed alterations, and would shortly be despatched to the Court of Directors, who would forward it once more to Calcutta. A few days ago, Dr. Duff, on making a second enquiry, was informed, that the document was positively to be sent to the India House immediately, and we were led thus to expect that it would find its way to the Legislative Council in Calcutta with-

out any further delay, and that this important question, after having been bandied about for ten years, might possibly be brought to a final conclusion before the end of the present year. All these hopes are at once dashed to the ground by the announcement that the President of the Board of Control had taken the matter into his own hands, and had promised to introduce a Bill on the subject into Parliament. The indifference of the President to everything in which the welfare and improvement of India are interested, has become proverbial, and it is accordingly to be expected that in a question like the present, of no political and no party importance, this habitual inaction will be exchanged for active exertion. Nothing is more probable than that no Bill whatever will be brought in during the present session by his Lordship. But even if the vis inertiae of Cannon Row could for once be conquered, what prospect is there that such a Bill will pass both Houses of Parliament this year, when the great object of the Ministry is to bring the Sessions to as early a close as possible, and their wishes are secondly by the members in general, to whom a greater attraction than the debates of Parliament is about to be presented in the Crystal Palace and its wonders? The only consolation which we can obtain, is founded in the hope that Lord Broughton knew little, or remembered little about the position in which this question of Dissenter's marriages in India stood at the time, and not having Mr. Wilson to prompt him, as in the House of Commons, inconsiderately promised to bring in a Bill, under the impression that this was the most effectual mode of stifling any unpleasant discussion.

But even if we had the prospect of seeing the Act passed by Royal consent before the Session closes, England is not the place where such an Act, intended for the meridian of India, can be matured and enacted with the remotest prospect of any beneficial result. An Act intended for operation in India, should be passed in India, by the Legislative Council which Parliament, in the exercise of its wisdom, has given to India. The sole reason for asking the sanction of the Imperial Legislature for such an Act, arose from the objection raised by the lawyers, that any local Act legalizing marriages by Dissenting Clergymen in India, would not give the same degree of validity to the succession to landed property in England, which it would acquire from an Act of Parliament. It was desirable therefore to obtain Parliamentary legislation on the subject, but simply in order that the same Act performed by any Dissenter in India, should be to all intents and purposes, as binding and valid in England, as if it had been performed by the same Dissenting minister in our native land. But the number of Europeans who are likely to be married in India, under the new Act, by Dissenting ministers, is small, and the number even among these who may come to the inheritance of landed property in England, is still smaller. We want a new marriage Act in India more especially for the rising body of Native converts, the great majority of whom belong to Churches not connected with the Episcopal Church. Such an Act, to be of any value, must be discussed and digested in this country, and adapted to local circumstances and exigencies, and we should sincerely deprecate the enactment of any hasty, crude, and inappropriate Act in the Imperial Legislature, where the most profound ignorance of every Indian question is exhibited whenever it comes on the carpet. The Act should be promulgated in the usual form, by the Legislative Council of India, the objection,



the modifications, and the additions propounded by those who are familiar with the subject, should be calmly and earnestly weighed, and when the Act has thus been matured and passed in this country, a very brief Parliamentary enactment, ordaining that marriages solemnized under its provisions by Dissenting ministers abroad, shall have the same effect in England as if they had been solemnized by the same ministers at home, is all that we require.

**THE CHINA LINE OF THE P. AND O. COMPANY'S STEAMERS.**—The second vessel of this Company is to be despatched to the Straits and China to-morrow, the 18th instant, and, we understand, with a cargo of Opium, quite equal to that which went forward on the first steamer. We have likewise been informed that the demand for freight is so great, that a third vessel might be despatched immediately, if only were available. No enterprise started in the East has ever been crowned with such rapid and gratifying success to the parties who have embarked in it. The most singular feature of this enterprise is that it has proved so extraordinarily remunerative without any assistance whatever from Government; indeed, it may be considered as the first undertaking of the kind in the East, which has proved successful without any such aid. Neither is there any reason to fear that it will hereafter fall off without the addition of this support. As each Steamer takes a thousand chests of Opium, and the present monthly provision is Three thousand, there is room for the employment of three steamers regularly, for the steamers must inevitably, even though tardily, supersede the clipper, just as the clipper themselves superseded the slow lumbering craft formerly employed in the trade. The Opium traffic appears from its very nature,—the proportion of bulk to value being so small—to be especially calculated for the employment of steamers. The restriction on the cultivation of the drug having now been removed, we may expect that the annual supply will be considerably increased, and the opening for the profitable employment of steamers on this line, enlarged to a very considerable extent.

**CAPTAIN FAGAN AND THE BENARES BANK.**—Captain Fagan, as our readers will doubtless remember, was one of the officers who, during the reign of the late Commander-in-Chief, suffered for their connection with the direction of Mofussil Banks. He was tried by a Court Martial for having cancelled certain shares of the Benares Bank, to his own profit and the loss of his brother shareholders. The Court found him guilty, and he was cashiered. In our remarks upon the trial at the time, we observed, that "this was unquestionably the first instance in which a Court Martial had undertaken to determine some of the most intricate questions connected with the science of Banking, of which strange to say, not one of its members understood the first rudiments." How could it be expected, that a number of gentlemen, who never had the smallest connection with a Bank in their lives, except when borrowing money from it, should understand, in a moment, the most intricate questions of the most intricate of all possible subjects? Our defence of Captain Fagan subjected us, of course, to much misrepresentation, but the following opinion of two of the highest legal authorities in England, bears us out in all particulars.

"It appears to me, therefore, that to find him guilty of a crime, highly unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, in August, 1848, seemed an improper intrusion into the management of the affairs of the Bank, by

roving as the holder of about 112 shares, was entirely un-  
misleadingly by the evidence. Upon the whole case, we cannot help thinking that the members of the Court, dealing with matters with which they were not familiar, must have felt some misgivings as to the accuracy and justice of their finding, when they earnestly recommended to the clearance of the Commander-in-Chief's grievance when they found guilty of repeated and deliberate falsehood and  
brock towards a brother officer. It is impossible to conceive this recommendation with the serious character of the charges, without being strongly impressed with the conviction that it must have resulted from some grave doubt as to the propriety of the conclusion at which they had arrived. We think that if the subject had been fully understood the reasons which have occurred to our minds must have suggested themselves to the Court, and would have led to a totally opposite determination; for, we are compelled to say, that after all the attention we have given to the case, we consider the finding of the Court to be wholly unsupported by the evidence."

The matter is now fairly in the hands of the Court of Directors, and they can hardly avoid listening to Captain Fagan's appeal for another hearing of his case. The original Court Martial was convened to decide upon a question of which both the Prisoner, the Jury, and the Judge—taking the Commander-in-Chief in the nature capacity—were profoundly ignorant. It was just as absurd thus to submit a question on the mysteries of Banking to ten or twelve military officers, as it would have been to call upon the Judges of the Supreme Court to pronounce a decision on the merits of Chilianwallah. The sentence of that Court has now been declared ridiculous by men perfectly acquainted with the nature of the subject, and we most sincerely hope that the Court of Directors will allow the case to be submitted to the law officers of the Crown and the Judge Advocate General, and, if their opinion should be found to be adverse to that of the Court Martial, will at once restore Captain Fagan honestly and honorably to the service.

**RATES OF TRAVELLING IN BENGAL.**—The *Calcutta Gazette* of the 7th instant, contains a tabulated statement signed by the Deputy Post Master General of Bengal, shewing the average rate of the Mail travelling along some of the great routes—we have but one road—in Bengal. The table includes the rate for every month in 1850, together with the first three months of 1851, with a general average for the two periods. The statement is highly important, as every resident in Bengal who is burdened with a large correspondence knows, to his cost, that there exist the most glaring discrepancies in the speed of the dawks upon the various lines. These have been pointed out by the Press, and the public, until they have both sunk back into the silence of disgust, but this official statement, indicating as it does an official recognition of the existing discontent, leads us to hope for a reformation. It is curious, moreover, interesting as it demonstrates the great improvements which have been made by Mr. Bennett, during his incumbency of the Post office, and which it must have cost him no little trouble to effect with so many running contracts to contend against. The efforts made by Mr. Taylor during the last few months of his post office reign, and the persevering endeavours of Mr. Riddell, had even in 1850 brought up the dawks of the Grand Trunk Road to a speed which, considering the antediluvian modes of travelling current in India, was exceedingly respectable, and this rate has been improved by Mr. Bennett. The Grand Trunk Road, however, with its separate staff of Engineers, and a Governor General occasionally travelling over it, is no rule for other and less favoured routes. On turning to the published tables, we find that in the month of January, 1851, the average speed of the dawks along the "Western Road," as it is officially styled, i. e. from Calcutta to Benares, was six miles and three quarters per hour. This rate was increased in May to seven miles and a quarter; it fell again during the rains to five and a half, and rose in the cold season to seven and a sixth. The worst month in the year was July, as might have been expected from the heavy rains which occur at that period, and the general average of the year was consequently only six miles and a half per hour. In the first three months of 1851, under a better system of management, the rate of travelling increased to seven miles and a half an hour, which is about the maximum we are likely to obtain from the present postal arrangements. Turning to the next statement, but without quitting the "Western Road," we find that in the year 1850, the very highest average between Shergotty and Ghazepore is five miles an hour, and it frequently falls as low as two miles and a quarter, while the general average is only four miles and a fraction. This rate, however, rises in 1851 to six miles and a quarter per hour, an extraordinary improvement, even after we have made all allowances for the favourable state of the weather. On the "Eastern road" or the road from Calcutta to Chittagong, the signs of progress are much less perceptible. In 1850 the rate was never above three miles and a half an hour, or about an ordinary walking pace, and even in 1851, the improvement is denominated by a fraction. On the "Southern road" there is a great and to us almost unintelligible discrepancy. In 1850, the ordinary rate of the dawk from Calcutta to Chittorgore was three and a quarter miles an hour, while that to Chota Nagpore "progressed" as the Americans say, five and a half miles. Both rates have improved—the first now averaging more than four, and the latter more than six miles an hour. This is encouraging, and we hope that even these dawks may yet be raised to the level of those on the Grand Trunk Road.

So far we have availed ourselves of the information communicated by the official statement, and we must now enquire, why that statement has been made in so very meagre a form. There are eight stations mentioned in the table out of about forty, in which the public feel a strong interest. We require to know not only the rates of travelling along the great roads, but the time occupied by the Dawk between Calcutta and each station in Bengal, in each month of the year. The public is anxious also to know the causes of the extraordinary delay of the Eastern dawk, and why a letter is rather longer in reaching Dacca than in reaching Benares? The statement is evidently intended to be published monthly, and we throw out these hints to Mr. Bennett, in order that he may give us a fuller and more complete report next month. He has accomplished a great deal for the improvement of the dawks, and it will do him no harm to acquaint the public with the results of his labours.

**THE DELHI SKETCH BOOK.**—We have received the 2nd No. of the II. Vol. of this amusing publication, and are happy to see that it improves with age. The illustrations—with one exception which has been "smuggled"—are well and freely executed, and the caricatures are decidedly superior to any we have seen in the former numbers. "This is the Court that Jack built," with Judge, Jotee Pershad, and Mr. Lang is particularly good, and so is the picture of the English staggering under a load of "House building," "Bank Installments," "Marches" and "Shares of Stope," though we fancy we have

term Road," as it is officially styled, i. e. from Calcutta to Benares, was six miles and three quarters per hour. This rate was increased in May to seven miles and a quarter; it fell again during the rains to five and a half, and rose in the cold season to seven and a sixth. The worst month in the year was July, as might have been expected from the heavy rains which occur at that period, and the general average of the year was consequently only six miles and a half per hour. In the first three months of 1851, under a better system of management, the rate of travelling increased to seven miles and a half an hour, which is about the maximum we are likely to obtain from the present postal arrangements. Turning to the next statement, but without quitting the "Western Road," we find that in the year 1850, the very highest average between Shergotty and Ghazepore is five miles an hour, and it frequently falls as low as two miles and a quarter, while the general average is only four miles and a fraction. This rate, however, rises in 1851 to six miles and a quarter per hour, an extraordinary improvement, even after we have made all allowances for the favourable state of the weather. On the "Eastern road" or the road from Calcutta to Chittagong, the signs of progress are much less perceptible. In 1850 the rate was never above three miles and a half an hour, or about an ordinary walking pace, and even in 1851, the improvement is denominated by a fraction. On the "Southern road" there is a great and to us almost unintelligible discrepancy. In 1850, the ordinary rate of the dawk from Calcutta to Chittorgore was three and a quarter miles an hour, while that to Chota Nagpore "progressed" as the Americans say, five and a half miles. Both rates have improved—the first now averaging more than four, and the latter more than six miles an hour. This is encouraging, and we hope that even these dawks may yet be raised to the level of those on the Grand Trunk Road.

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seen the same idea in *Panch*. If the periodical improves at the rate it will come for the last two or three months, it will become in time no mean rival of its immortal prototype *Panch*. But her does not take up one-half the subjects for satire which this country, so fertile in anomalies and eccentricities, affords. We could give him half a dozen a month. Let him begin with a certain Commissioner which has been deputed to enquire why the Amalas are without turbans, and give us an entire turbantless Outcherry, with the Commissioner in the centre.

We have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of the Reports of the Missions in Kumaon, in Orissa, and at Loodiana, which we shall lose no time in noticing. We have also to thank Dr. Sutton for his "Orissa and its Evangelization," which will have our earliest attention.

### WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5.

— The *Overland China Mail* of the 23rd April states, that the Cabinet of Peking have determined to make some important changes in the management of the salt monopoly of China. It would appear that the revenue derived from the salt amounts to nearly two millions and a half sterling, but that frauds and delays have reduced it to about 1,700,000. In one single collection the aggregate of arrears of salt revenue amounted in 1842 to forty-two millions of taels, about fourteen millions sterling, or as nearly as possible a year's revenue of the whole empire.

— The *Madras Journal* has received papers from the Cape to the 28th March, announcing that no fewer than 40 men of the Cape Mounted Rifles have deserted to the enemy with their arms and accoutrements. The corps is said to be so generally disaffected, that the Governor has found it necessary to disarm them, after declaring them "a disgraced Regiment." This defection, of course, demands all confidence in the Native troops, and compels Sir H. Smith to rely solely on his European and British troops. The *China Mail* of the 17th April, mentions that a corps of salt takers from Hongkong to Calcutta, not only proved a profitable expedient, but actually obtained "Fifteen per cent per hundred measure more than that from the Western side of India." We wish our contemporary would inform us of the price of salt in China, when under the pressure of the salt monopoly. It must be very low indeed to enable the merchants at Hongkong to ship to India, even as ballast, and sell it at a remunerating rate. How far the English exporters of salt will be pleased with the intelligence, however, is quite another thing.

— The *San Francisco Daily Herald* of the 5th February, gives the following picture of the extraordinary progress of that city:—"Our city is rapidly extending over the bay, and soon the major part of the landmass will be untraced here six months ago the tide flowed under-rupt. Wharves are shooting out into the bay in every direction, connections are made between those, and buildings of handsome size and substantial character are springing up, and falling into line, gradually defining by uniform rows, the streets that before existed only on paper. Here may be seen two long projections, connected by a narrow isthmus of timber upon which two dare not move, for to pass each other is impossible, and one or the other must recede or both go into the air. The water rises the skeleton of a wharf with its props and masts, it is sufficient to give birth to a pier, and each day sees another bold stroke at the emporium of the waves." They are fast retreating and the tide is ebbing upon. Before two years shall have passed, all this section of the city will be built up, the shallow waters run into firm land, and regularly defined streets traverse in every direction what now are moving waters." The *San Francisco Herald* is estimated by the local journals at 25,000, comprising Anglo Saxons, French, Chinese, Turks, Spaniards, and Kanakas, or South Sea Islanders.

— The *Overland Friend of China* believes that the progress of the movements in the Canton province is becoming so rapid, that it will soon require the whole strength of the present dynasty to suppress it. The Chinese of the province are even expected to be the cause of a new college by the rebels, a fact of sufficient to prove that their object is a political one. We must, however, observe that some of the other papers state that the rebellion is nothing but a great raffle of plunder, a sort of *Plunderia* war.

— Dr. Badale left Calcutta for Europe by the steamer of the last posting. Dr. Badale has obtained an European reputation by his persevering and successful efforts to prove to the world that Miasmata is not the absurdity which it is considered by the profession in England, and that it confers on the soil the blessing of the blessing of plagues. His enthusiasm for this science will probably induce him to attempt to disprove the minds of his professional brethren in London upon the subject, in which

case, he will have a storm of prejudice, slander, and ridicule to encounter, such as would damp the freest spirit in Europe, and after all, perhaps, find him unsuccessful.

— A correspondent of the *Shawbury* mentions that among the contributions from India to the great Exhibition of 1851, was a model of a "Centrifugal Sugar Refiner" invented by Mr. J. Thompson, and now in operation at Coodeport. This machine purifies and refines the coarsest sugar in a few minutes, and an eminent Englishman saw the model in it in the Crystal Palace, has said, "this invention is destined to advance the art of sugar refining just as much as the spinning jenny does our cotton manufacture." We think we may Mr. Thompson has reaped a simple punishment reward for his invention.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6.

— The *Agre Morning* publishes a story of an occurrence at the Agre jail, about which a great deal of discussion has taken place, but which seems to us to rather to deserve a smile than any more serious comment. Major Garrett, the officer on duty for the week, went to inspect the sugar guard which is now stationed in the jail, and after inspecting the men attempted to quit the building by the way he had entered. He was, however, stopped by a closed gate, and on enquiring, found that it had been shut by the order of Mr. Woodcock, the inspector of jails. A man was immediately sent to Mr. Woodcock, who came in person, and explained that it was a standing rule that every one who entered the jail without an order, should be detained in it till his name and purpose could be ascertained. We think Mr. Woodcock might modify his rule upon any very great danger, as people in general are not half so anxious to get into jail as to get out of it.

— The *Lakshmi Chronicle* publishes a report of the Re-El Society of Calcutta, which was established in April 1850, among the members of March 1851, received Rs. 4,150 in monthly contributions, 237 Rs. in Donations, and 2 Rs. from the proceeds of a pauper lottery. The average monthly receipts of the Society amount to Rs. 345, which since Rs. 100 are contributed by two individuals. The money thus obtained is devoted partly to the maintenance of a poor house, and partly to small pensions granted to the needy and infirm. The Fund, however, is not so well supported as it might be, considering the large number of officers in and around Calcutta.

— The *Calcutta Journal* informs us that Mr. Hay Thomas Stewart, has been appointed Collector of Feroz on the Bagherat, vacant by the death of the late Mr. Larrelita. The appointment appears to have given general satisfaction.

— The *Shawbury* mentions that the enforcement of the rule of the Savings Bank which directs the personal attendance of depositors, has not in any degree diminished the number of who frequented the bank without an order, but that the total number of deposits has increased. The total number of depositors now amounts to upwards of nine thousand, and they are informed of the statement of their accounts. The system requires extension, and we may possibly hereafter point out a mode of enlarging its operation.

— The *Englewood*, noticing our remarks upon the small amount of the debts of officers who die in this country, as shown by the schedule of the Administrator General, says that that schedule proves nothing whatever. The *Mofussil* in India, wherever they must a boon to any individual, compel him to leave his life for a sum even beyond what he owes them, and thus his death not only clears off the debt, but sometimes leaves a balance for the benefit of his family. Of course, therefore, the debts to the Banks do not make their appearance in the Administrator General's schedule of any officer's estates.

— The *Bombay Gazette* publishes a letter of thanks, addressed to the Captain of the Austrian Lloyd's steamer *Italia*. The letter is signed by Forty-four ladies and gentlemen, many of them well known in Calcutta, and it speaks in high terms of the courtesy of the Captain during the short voyage. We have since received a copy of the letter, which will be found in another column.

— The *Calcutta* correspondent of the *Bombay Times* writes strongly against the proposed annexation of the Sultan upon the independence of the Pasha of Egypt. It appears the Sultan is determined to introduce his "Tanjimat" a kind of Oriental Reform Bill, into the Hereditary Pashalik, and the Pasha is equally determined to make it. The crisis appears to have roused the Pasha to action, and he now pays greater attention to business, and to the improvement of all the various appliances at his disposal, than he has hitherto done.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7.

Two of the *Calcutta Journal* informs the public that the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Philanthropic Society will take place this evening. We notice this announcement, as it is remarkable that a Society for such a purpose, and composed exclusively of Natives, should have lasted for six years.

— The *Bombay Gazette* says that Mr. McKenna, the gentleman who originally established the *Bombay Gentlemen's Gazette*, has presented a petition to Parliament, requesting to be exempted from the law of the House of Commons. Mr. McKenna promises if his request is acceded to, to propose a panacea which shall at once afford all difficulties in the way of financial legislation in England. It will open new sources of industry to the manufacturers; it will foster the

shipping interests; it will create extensive fields for the enterprise and energy of the capitalists; it will relieve the burden of the House of Commons, and thereby regular their connection with the mother country more minutely and more affectionately; it will close and heal the wounds of Ireland. Close and heal the wounds of Ireland! Has the House of Commons any more to do?

— The same journal publishes a report of a conversation between Mr. Ibrahim Khan, the British Agent, at Muscat, and an eminent Englishman, who was the model in it in the Crystal Palace, has said, "this invention is destined to advance the art of sugar refining just as much as the spinning jenny does our cotton manufacture." We think we may Mr. Thompson has reaped a simple punishment reward for his invention.

— The *Calcutta Morning Chronicle* states, that no more than one hundred and eighty men out of H. M. S. 12th Royal Irish, now in Port William, are in Hospital. Why not remove them to Dumb-Dum as once?

— The *Madras Statesman* states, that the Small Court under the jurisdiction of Sir William Barton, in 1850 cases in error. This arises from the immense number of summonses issued from the Court, which appears to be daily increasing. We almost think the "trade in summonses" which was at one time detected and suppressed in the Calcutta Police Court, has now found its way to Madras. The trick was a success. A. applied for a summons against B. upon a charge of assault, and having obtained it, went to B. and demanded the money upon which the summons was issued, being unable to quit his shop, or unwilling to expose himself to the annoyance of entering a Court, paid the money, and the summons was quashed. We think some such practice may possibly have been introduced among the civil litigants at Madras.

— The wrecked vessel which, as we mentioned last week, was seen by the *India* from South India, and which, it is now said, was the *Charles Forbes*, a vessel of 1,200 tons burden, and well known in the harbour of Bombay. She grounded off Paravel Hill in the Straits, on the 2nd April, but fortunately the crew were saved. Her cargo consisted chiefly of opium and cotton, and the greater portion was safely conveyed to Singapore.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8.

— The *Englewood* notices a list of South Australia papers, extending to the 22nd March, and they are almost entirely filled with the details of the elections now going on under the new constitution. One of the principal subjects of discussion is the question of the extension of the vote for the support of a State Church, in other words, of endowing a Church Establishment. The general current of public feeling is so strong in favour of the extension of the vote that South Australia will follow the example of all other Anglo South Colonies, and leave religion to support itself. The Colonial Bishop, who were to have secured to the interests of the Church of England, the amount of the Anglo South Empire, appear to have failed.

— We perceive from a General Order of the 14th May, that the Commander-in-Chief has been in attendance called to an abuse of a privilege granted to the agents drawn from Oude. These men have by law the right of requesting the assistance of the Resident at Lucknow, to bring their claims before the authorities of Oude, and this privilege of course, secures them speed and certain justice, even in their own mismanaged country. Two men have, however, been detected in the practice of selling this privilege to other parties, and are sentenced to be dismissed the service. This severe example will, it is hoped, put a stop to a practice which has entailed serious inconvenience upon the Resident.

— Nine Indian Agents applied for discharge to the Insolvency Court of Calcutta, on Saturday, the 7th instant, one of whom was a Captain in the Company's service, now absent on furlough. The only one of interest was Mr. Joseph Agar, a native of the Province of Bahob, on the ground that the Insolvency had fraudulently contracted a debt of Rs. 17,000. The Commissioner, however, stated that although it was true that the Insolvency had been swearing on both sides, he did not think the opposition would be successful.

— A correspondent of the *Shawbury*, writes, in high praise of the quality of the mountain air of Darjeeling, and the strawberries and cream, which are there procurable. In the hottest season of the year, the thermometer never ranges above 75, and a walk of eight miles is not fatiguing as a trip to the beach. A correspondent writing from the Netherbyshire, says that the thermometer never ranges above sixty-six degrees.

— The *Delhi Gazette* states, that the steamers flying on the Indian, have been ordered to take passengers from Kurrachee to Mooltan at the following rates:

1st Class,	.....	Rs. 200
2nd Class,	.....	Rs. 150
3rd Class,	.....	Rs. 100

The 2nd and 3rd class passengers are not to be taken on the 1st class as mentioned up. The rates from Mooltan back to Kurrachee are the same. The rates for the 1st class of steamers include provisions, which is to be paid for at the rate of Rs. 6 a day, exclusive of liquor. These charges, considering the rates usually applied in India, are not excessive, moderate, and our servants are called from a, respectively.



















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AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.  
CASCUTTA AGENCY.

**CALCUTTA AGENCY.**  
THE Calcutta branch of the **Agri and United Service Bank**, in addition to ordinary Banking business, makes loans on the security of approved Securities and Life Insurance, makes advances on the pledge and deposit of Government Paper, Shares of the Bank of Bengal, and other approved assignable Joint Stock Certificates.

Money Agency in all its branches including sale and purchase of Government Securities, and Joint Stock, with the receipt of interest and dividends thereon, transacted by the Calcutta Agent: who is also empowered by the Directors to draw on the Bank's London Agent, Capt. R. G. MacGregor, 15, Old Jewry Chambers, as follows:—  
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Four " "	...	...	1	11 1/2	"
Three " "	...	...	1	11 1/4	"
Two " "	...	...	1	11 1/8	"
One " "	...	...	1	11 1/16	"
At sight	...	...	1	11 1/32	"

At sight, "I 112"  
the Bank will grant letters of credit on their Agents  
in amounts under £200 sterling, which will be negotiated  
by their correspondents at the following places, viz., at  
London, by Messrs. Baring & Co.; at Paris, by Messrs.

by Messrs. Bell and Co.; at Trieste, by Messrs. Falck  
and Co.; at Paris, by Messrs. Berner Laffitte  
the Local Agent will, if desired,  
be done at the Bank's office at the current

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the rate of return on money, the amount of the deposit (as particularly declared), the interest on deposit accounts, the principal of all deposits fixed and floating and current interest on such deposit or for the clause between the

No. 3, *Willesley Place,* }  
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H. W. I. WOOD,  
Agent.

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For particulars apply to  
**GILLANDERS, ARBUTHNOT AND CO**  
Calcutta, 26th April, 1851.

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ing. This work gives formula and examples for cal-  
culating the H.P. of steam engines, the draught or raised wa-  
ter, the consumption of steam, &c.

of which are pure cigarettes, loose, flavoured tobacco and chewing tobacco. It contains no nicotine, tar or other subjects-susceptible substances. Any person acquainted with Arithme,irance

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Every description of repairs to Guns, &c. on the premises.

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{ Price 3 Cts. Pr. monthly or 30 Pr. yearly if paid in advance.

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HARRINGTON," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Europe, and the intermediate Ports (Malta, Ceylon, Aden, Pessing, Suez, and Alexandria), intended for transmission by the Postmaster and Oriental Company's Steamer "Harrington," will be closed at this Office, on Wednesday, the 21st July, and that as after packet will be despatched hence on Thursday, the 22d Idem, with the ordinary Mail to reach the Summer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Harrington* can be received after 5 P. M. of that date.

J. R. BURTON BENTLEY,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge,  
Gen. Post Office, 18th June, 1851.

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Mail of the 7th May, reached Calcutta on the evening of Thursday the 12th instant, after a voyage of thirty-six days. The whole interest of the Mail centre, as might have been expected, upon the opening of the Crystal Palace. The Summaries are full of it, and our files neglect almost all other subjects; the illustrated journals are crowded with pictorial designs of every portion of the building; in short, the single thought of the whole people of England for the fortnight, seems to have been their Great Palace of Art and Industry. The ceremonial at the opening of the Palace, after making all deductions for the ardent excitement of the writers, appears to have been really worthy of the enthusiasm it has created among the least enthusiastic people in the world. After all the dire prognostications that have been promulgated, and all the fears of riot and tumult, the first of May passed off without one single accident calculated to mar the splendour of the scene. The Queen, according to her promise, went in state to the building at the day appointed, and the sun shone out as brightly as to deserve the name of the Queen's weather," an expression frequently used to indicate the good fortune in this respect, which has always attended her Majesty. The Queen entered the building a little after twelve o'clock, amidst a flourish of trumpets, and the scene, as described by a variety of pens, appears to have been magnificent in the extreme. Within, were from Twenty-five to Thirty thousand spectators, comprising almost every name known in England, and half of their number, ladies, whose rich dresses, combined with the coloured and outé costume of the foreign visitors, added every variety of colour to the monotonous black which generally distinguishes an English crowd. Without, the Park was filled with upwards of Five hundred thousand persons, who had turned out as with one accord in holiday dresses to witness the procession of their Sovereign, and the inauguration of the World's Fair. The proceedings commenced by Prince Albert, reading the report of the proceedings, as one of the Royal Commissioners, which was replied to by the Queen in a short speech ending thus: "I cordially concur with you in the prayer, that by God's blessing this undertaking may conduce to the welfare of my people, and to the common interests of the human race, by encouraging the arts of peace and industry, strengthening the bonds of union among the nations of the earth, and promoting a friendly and honorable rivalry in the useful exercise of those faculties which have been conferred by a beneficent Providence for the good and happiness of mankind." Then followed an eloquent prayer, from the Archbishop of

Canterbury, and then "the thunder of the opening chords of the grand Hallelujah chorus burst gloriously upon the ear, pealing splendidly out, as the hand and chorus, lent their full vigour to the execution of the music." The chorus was caught up by thousands of voices in the crowd, and yet so vast is this unique building, that there were parts of it where the full roar of organs and voices sounded only like a distant hum. The Royal Procession then proceeded through the principal avenues, and "beamed as if a stream of gold and blazing gems of every tint, and every shade of lustre was rolling its slow and gorgeous way through banks of outspread drapery, and waving fluttering scarfs and ribbons. The expression may seem hyperbolic, but it conveys the sensation produced by the stately march of that magnificent Court party, drifting among the brilliant masses of that gaily decked and waving, undulating canopy." After this passage through the principal parts of the Exhibition, Her Majesty returned to her seat, and then proclaimed the Exhibition opened.

"The ceremonial was over. The Exhibition was opened. The grandest coup d'œil perhaps ever witnessed had been achieved, and the most remarkable museum ever collected had been inaugurated. We have made no attempt to describe the innumerable features of the scene. The public must be tolerably well aware, from engravings and descriptions, of the general appearance of the interior of the Exhibition, particularly the magnificently vaulted transept. To obtain anything like an idea of the scene of yesterday, they must people the mighty building with its thousands of men, excited, brilliant. They must picture this crowd, massed on the floor, clustering on platforms, swarming on galleries, uttering its prophecies on all sides—from the square space in the centre, which is one blaze of many-coloured uniforms, of plumed espadilles, and helmets—they must encompass this picture with the frame of the symmetrical proportions of the glorious building itself—they must deck it with the visions of statues, carvings, fountains, glittering chandeliers and gorgeous tapestries—they must fill the air with mingled music and acclamation—they must breathe the moral enthusiasm and fervour which universally pervaded—they must picture all the vision, moving, waving, trembling with life and excitement; and having done so, they will, perhaps, have some faint and vague idea of the scene presented at the inauguration of the Crystal Palace by Queen Victoria."

This sentence and the extract or two given above, is from an elaborate description of the ceremony in the *Morning Chronicle*, and republished in the *Englishman*. We are sorry our contracted space will not allow of our giving the whole of the magnificent description entire, but we have excluded other extracts to make room for detached passages, which afford the finest idea of the whole scene that we have yet perused.

In spite of the all absorbing interest of the Crystal Palace, the political business of the fortnight has been of some importance. On the 2nd May, the House went into Committee upon the Property Tax, or Income Tax Bill, and Mr. Hume moved as an amendment that the tax, instead of being allowed for a period of three years, should be passed for one year, and that in the meantime a select Committee should be appointed to enquire into its operation, with the view of making its pressure more equitable and just. The amendment was strongly opposed by the Government, but it was carried by a majority of fourteen in a house of four hundred and seventy-seven. Lord John Russell was of opinion, that the enquiry would demonstrate the extraordinary difficulty of revising the system of levying the tax, so as to remedy its present inequalities.

On the 6th May, the Ministry were again defeated. Lord Nass brought forward a motion, that the House should resolve itself into Committee, to consider the present mode of levying the duty on home made spirits in bond, which he believed to be injurious to the British manufacturer. The motion was opposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the ground that the production of the home made article was rapidly increasing. Mr. Wilson, also, came forward with his usual display of statistical figures, but the division showed 159 votes for the motion, and 159 against it. According to custom, the casting vote of the Speaker decided in favour of the Mover, in order to give his motion the advantage of a debate. In the course of the evening, Mr. Roebuck made one of his usual caustic attacks upon the Ministry, and declared that respect for their own characters, as well as for the people, demanded an immediate resignation, to which Lord John Russell replied that he was perfectly competent to judge of the proper time for retiring from his office, and had no intention of doing so just then. It is certain that a resignation at the present crisis must be followed by a dissolution, which would probably end calamitously, as the Protectionists would be greatly assisted by a Protestant cry. The remainder of the intelligence is of little interest, and the only news of importance to residents in India, is the unseating of Mr. Thoby Prinsep, the particulars of which we have given in another column.

The Foreign news brought by the Mail is of little moment, unless we are to credit the report of an intended Socialist rising in France. A manifesto said to have been prepared by some of the leaders of the Mountain, has been seized by the Police in a village near Paris. It is signed by the "Central Committee of Resistance," and contains resolutions of the most Ultra Socialist tendency, beside which the proclamation of the English Chartists looks mere milk and water. It is doubtful, however, whether it is really sanctioned by the Red Republicans, but it appears certain that a great struggle, if not a civil war, is expected in France at the next Presidential election. This takes place in March 1852, and is looked forward to with great anxiety, not only by the Republicans but by the sovereigns all over Europe. The insurrection in Portugal appears to be rapidly terminating in favour of the Marquis Saldaña. The Primo Minister, Count de Thomar, has resigned, and fled to Vigo where he remains. The insurrection appears to be directed against an unpopular Ministry, rather than against the Sovereign. Prince Schwarzenberg, the Prime Minister of Austria, and a rigid upholder of the despotic system of Government, has been appointed Governor of Transylvania.

**STATE OF THE POLICE IN THE DISTRICTS IN THE VICINITY OF THE METROPOLIS.**—It was stated in the papers some time ago that the Government of India had called on the Government of Bengal for a Report on the increasing frequency of dacoities in the Lower Provinces. If such has been the case, and we know nothing to the contrary, it would appear that the subject has at length attracted attention in the right quarter. The time has now arrived for a deep and thorough investigation of the

gree of security which exists for life and property within a circle of forty or fifty miles round the metropolis, and it can no longer be delayed. All the measures which have hitherto been devised and adopted for the public peace and security, have produced such partial results, that they may almost be said to have altogether failed of their purposes. The separation of the office of Magistrate from that of Collector, in order that the former might devote his undivided attention to the duties of the Police—the establishment of Deputy Magistrates in various parts of the country—the increase of the pay of the Darogahs—none of these measures have been successful in eradicating or even in diminishing dacoities. These crimes come, on the contrary, to have rather increased with the measures adopted to restrain them. There can be little doubt that dacoities are far more prevalent and more daring in the districts around Calcutta, than they were ten or fifteen years ago; and this is to be attributed in a great measure to that superior organization of the fraternity of dacoits which baffles the vigilance and the exertions of the most efficient Magistrate. Let us illustrate this by a simple narrative of events in a single district during twelve or fifteen months. There was, in the first place, a dacoity committed about a mile from the sudder station, in which from twenty to twenty-five men were engaged, and who came down on the inmates of the house and carried off property to the extent of 2 or 300 Rupees, with perfect impunity. Next came a daring robbery in the heart of the station itself, within hail of the Sudder Tanna: the gang entered the house in force, and walked off with about 300 Rs. worth of property. No clue was ever found to the dacoits. Soon after, another robbery of a woman in the most populous part of the station of about 200 Rs. was perpetrated. The robbers landed from a boat, marched up to the house, lighted their torch, and having secured every thing in it, marched back to their boats and disappeared. Not six months ago, a large party of them embarked at one of the ghats in Calcutta on a plundering expedition, but it was not known on what spot they would fall, and the precautions taken in particular places to give them a warm reception, proved abortive. They attacked a house two miles from the station we allude to, at a little distance from the river, and completely gutted it. The most energetic and untiring efforts were made in all these cases by the Magistrate and all his subordinates to find some clue to these robberies, and the most tempting rewards were offered, but all to no purpose. Not one of them has been convicted. The organization of the dacoits appears to be so complete as to secure perfect impunity. When the Magistrate was last out on circuit, four or five dacoities were committed in a few days, within a few miles of his encampment. We fear it may be said with truth, that in the districts around Calcutta, there are few men possessed of One or Two Hundred Rupees in money or jewels, who can retire to rest at night with the certainty of not being robbed if it before morning. Some of the Magistrates in the districts we refer to, are men of great energy, who, by encouraging informers, by endeavoring to detach influential robbers from the gang, and by a course of untiring vigilance, have frequently succeeded in checking these robberies, but no permanent security for property has yet been created.

Whenever the searching investigation which is now heritable shall unfold the real state of the country, Government will be enabled at once to comprehend, why the most active

and vigilant Magistrate is able to effect so little, and why the smallest relaxation of energy, or the arrival of a new Magistrate, who has to make himself acquainted with the people and the circumstances of the district, gives fresh animation to crime and plunder. We believe that when Mr. Bayley took charge of the district of Hooghly in 1844, there were no fewer than eleven dacoities in the first month. The dacoits took advantage of his local inexperience, and were determined to try his mettle. We shall not attempt to anticipate the official discoveries which will doubtless follow the intimation received from the Government of India, but the reader may not be uninterested in having some glimpse of the present extraordinary state of things around Calcutta. He will be surprised to find that this range of country is infested throughout with professional, and in some cases hereditary dacoits, who depend for their subsistence on the plunder of their fellow countrymen. Their emissaries are constantly abroad, following up the scent of property, prying into the secrets of those who are reputed to possess it, and collecting all the information they can obtain about the locality of their residence. When all the necessary intelligence has thus been obtained, a gang is collected together, and they come down armed and accoutred in such force, as to strike terror into the neighbourhood, and they rarely fail to carry off the plunder they have secured. There are men who have confessed to having been engaged, some in twenty, some in twenty-five, others in thirty dacoities; and the minute description they have given of the place, the time, and the circumstances of the robbery, and the result of it, are found to tally so exactly with the police records of those transactions in the different districts, as not to leave the smallest shadow of doubt as to the veracity and accuracy of their statements. One man on being asked how long he had been engaged in these transactions, put up his hand, to indicate that he entered on the vocation at eight years of age. The most singular confessions are understood to have been made by men who have been tried and acquitted by the Session Judges, for dacoities they now acknowledge. Again, it would appear from these disclosures, that there are men now undergoing punishment for crimes with which they had nothing to do. The whole machinery of our police appears utterly unequal to the task of checking dacoities, and our Criminal Courts are ill-fitted, as it would seem, to fix the crime upon the right shoulders. We are feeling in the dark, acting in the dark, and striking in the dark. The conviction or punishment of a dozen men for dacoities produces no salutary effect on the peace and security of the country, because even if some of these men were really engaged in the crimes of which they are convicted, it is well known to their accomplices that their condemnation is merely the effect of hap-hazard; that their condemnation remains undisturbed, and that the chances of escape, are always ten times as great as those of conviction. One curious case has transpired which will serve to show the system of complete organization with which we have to cope. Some time ago, a Darogah not far from Calcutta, received a reward for his activity in apprehending four or five dacoits with the plunder on them, and obtained promotion. From recent discoveries, it turns out that the leader of the dacoits on that occasion determined on plundering a house, where he knew there were three or four thousand Rupees in store, and was anxious to divert the Darogah's attention, and put him upon another scent. These or some

of his gang in whom he had little confidence, and whom he probably wished to rid himself of, were therefore deputed on a dacoity in an opposite direction, and due notice of it was conveyed to the Darogah, who proceeded with his whole staff to the spot, and apprehended the men with the property on them, and thereby got no little reputation with Government. Meanwhile the main body proceeded in perfect security on the larger expedition, and completely succeeded in gutting the house.

These remarks have extended so much beyond the space we designed for them, that we are obliged to postpone to the next week our notice of the causes to which the want of success may be traced.

SIR CHARLES NAPIER'S ATTACK ON LORD DALHOUSIE AND LORD DALHOUSIE'S EXPLANATION.—In the dinner given to Sir Charles Napier by the Byculla Club at Bombay, when he was leaving India, burning with indignation against Lord Dalhousie, he charged his Lordship with having neglected the interests of commerce by refusing to give Mr. Arathoon, the protection he required for the conveyance of the timber he had felled in the mountains to Bombay. The charge is contained in the following paragraph:

"I met an Armenian of the name of Arathoon the other day in the Punjab, a man of great energy and enterprise, and who largely assisted our Armies in Afghanistan in procuring supplies, who told me that he had felled an enormous quantity of timber, which was now lying on the bank of the Chenab, as he could not bring it down to Bombay. Lord Dalhousie having refused him the protection of Government unless he could prove that he had the means of carrying out his enterprise. It is true that I had only this Arathoon's own story, and he was an interested party; but I believed what he told me. Now I don't know much of such things, and I am speaking in the presence of those who do, but I should not like Government to be nothing to do with a man's means. Commerce requires to be treated like a child."

To these charges, Lord Dalhousie has sent an official reply, through the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Governor of Bombay. This explanation will be perfectly satisfactory to every one acquainted with the circumstances of the country, and the character of its princes. Lord Dalhousie, on the receipt of Mr. Arathoon's application, informed him that he was willing to afford him every facility for procuring timber in the Himalayas, if he could show that he had sufficient means for carrying the project into execution. Mr. Arathoon was also desired to place himself in communication with the Board of Administration at Lahore, to whom instructions had been given to receive and report on his proposals. But Mr. Arathoon did not think fit to make any communication to the Board. In reply to a letter written by Lord Dalhousie's orders to them on the subject after Sir Charles Napier's attack on Government at the Byculla Club, their reply, in reference to the sanction made by Mr. Arathoon that he "had a large quantity of timber felled on the Chenab, which he could not bring down to Bombay, because Lord Dalhousie had refused him protection," that the Chenab runs through the Mithanra Gola Sing's territories, and that Mr. Arathoon could not possibly have a single piece of timber on it; that if he had timber on the Beas, there were no Rajas or Chiefs to interfere with him, and even on the Sutledge, if the wood was actually on the river, he could no longer require aid.

But it was not protection only that Mr. Arathoon required. He asked for privileges; he asked for a *Rahdarsar* *parwana*, which would have carried him into the territories of Gola Sing, and every other Raj in the Hills.

with power at once over persons and prices. Had these "perrannas" been granted him from the ruling power, at the very sound of whose name every raja and chieftain in India trembles, he would have obtained the command not only of all the hill chiefs, whose services and labor he would have been able to obtain at his own price. A compliance with his request for these perrannas, would have involved an act of the most serious injustice to the mountaineers, princes, as well as people, and would have given Mr. Arathoon a very injurious monopoly of the forest timber. It would, therefore, have been a very gross dereliction of duty on the part of Government, which must be exceedingly careful how it places any portion of its own power at the disposal of any private speculator. Mr. Arathoon, moreover, asked for contracts extending over a series of years, and Lord Dalhousie very properly refused to let Government with such engagements, unless Mr. Arathoon was prepared to show that he was possessed of the means of performing the large contracts he demanded. "His Lordship therefore considered, that he should have been dealing lightly with the public interests if he had granted Mr. Arathoon privileges and powers in our own and other states without first ascertaining that he was able to fulfil the ends for which they were to be granted to him." The forests are open to any one who can make equitable arrangements with the chiefs and people for selling them, and those arrangements must be made under a feeling of independence, and not in subservience to the wishes of a superior power. Any authority given by Government would be liable to abuse, and under those operations compulsory which should be free. It would have been time to apply for the protection of Government, when any unjust and arbitrary obstruction had been raised to the removal of the timber by the Chiefs.

The present transaction presents the novel, but not less gratifying spectacle of the Governor General setting himself right in public opinion through the medium of the press, in a matter in which he had been publicly calumniated. The public vindication has been managed with much tact, inasmuch as it was necessary to avoid the appearance of employing the press in his Lordship's defence. The explanation was therefore sent to the Governor of Bombay, who was requested to send a copy of the letter to the Chamber of Commerce, which was assumed "to be interested in the statement that had been put forth." If Lord Dalhousie, however, had, as Sir Charles Napier affirmed, discouraged commercial enterprise, which it was his duty, as the head of the Government, to have cherished, he was responsible for this dereliction of duty, not to the Governor of Bombay, or to the Chamber of Commerce, but to the Court of Directors in Leadenhall Street. But Lord Dalhousie was cautious, and most laudably so, to counteract the calumnies which Sir Charles Napier had been endeavoring to instil into the public mind, and to give his own vindication the same extent of circulation which the misrepresentation had obtained. It was, therefore, sent officially to the Chamber of Commerce at Bombay, without any prohibition of its being communicated to the Press. To the Press, it has therefore been communicated, and the Press has communicated it to the public, and the aspersions thrown on his Lordship's character have been triumphantly refuted.

There is only one passage which we wish had been omitted altogether. We allude to Sir Henry's remark that

"The Governor General, I am desired to say, does not concern himself to controvert any of the numerous errors and misrepresentations regarding the Government or himself which appear from time to time in the public journals."

This sentence appears altogether redundant, and is calculated to do injury. Every one will naturally explain it to mean that the numerous errors and misrepresentations published regarding the Government and Lord Dalhousie, have given him no concern whatever. This may be, and probably is, abundantly true; we have no proof whatever of Lord Dalhousie's want of imperturbability; but, unfortunately, in this country we have been so often constrained to read such declarations backward; we have so constantly found that the individual who asserted his complete independence of the remarks of the Press, was most completely under their influence, that any such declaration is always received with incredulity. Whenever any of our great men have been so very ill advised as to write the latter contract for the Press, we have instantly said, "it is in a bad room," and have instantly gone on to show that it is a bad room to go to, and have then taken to sleep. When Lord Dalhousie, I believe, declared publicly that he never read an Indian newspaper, and did not care a straw for what was said of him in it, the public were fully prepared for the fact, which soon afterwards came out, that he had been seen to throw one of them down on the ground with no very friendly or very moral exclamation. When Lord Gough declared that he would never look into an Indian paper, and pronounced them all liars, and vowed that no paper should cross his threshold but the *Tipperary Journal*—from whence his sobriquet of "old Tipperary"—every one knew that there was not a single remark made on his military blunders which was not read by him or to him, and which did not rouse his indignation to such a degree, as to render it any thing but pleasant to encounter him till the fit was over. We acquit Lord Dalhousie of all such littleness; but the Press has been rendered sensitive, and can rarely give a ruler credit for the sincerity of any assertion of indifference to its remarks. The whole communication would therefore have been more dignified and more unexceptionable, if no allusion whatever had been made to the fourth estate.

MR. THOMAS PRINSEP.—We were accidentally employed in correcting, for the use of a friend, a proof sheet of the celebrated verses, entitled "an Apostrophe to the wise men of the East," published in 1826 by Mr. W. Adam, in the *Calcutta Chronicle*, and which Lord Amherst was so silly as to punish by suppressing the journal, when the Mail announced that Mr. Prinsep had been unseated for Harwich on the petition of an opponent, notwithstanding the vigorous defence of his counsel Mr. Kinglake, the well known author of *Etthen*. The stanzas which refer to Mr. Prinsep in that Apostrophe appear to be so well adapted to the circumstances of the present case, that we can scarcely forbear republishing them, "with variations."

Oh, Thoby; Oh, Thoby,  
Alas, it should be so,  
But still it is shockingly true,  
They're allowed the position,  
Without the permission.

Of either Etthen or yon,  
Oh Thoby,  
Of either Etthen or yon.

The ground on which Mr. Prinsep has been so unceremoniously excluded from the House, after having made a most admirable and promising maiden speech, was the want of the parliamentary money qualification. He was in possession

of a House in London, of the annual rental of £290, and the usual annuity of £1000 a year from the Civil Fund. The qualification required is £200 a year; so Mr. Prinsep has only to purchase £200 in the three and half per Cent. Stock, to remove the objection at once. Unfortunately, the money expended in gaining the seat,—we mean the expense of the election—is irrecoverably lost. There is a rumour, that the great boroughmonger who brought him in, was also the real, though unseen instrument in ousting him; so that Mr. Prinsep has been jockeyed out of some £300, which might have been of eminent service at the next election.

But the question of most importance in this country is the objection taken by the Committee to the admission of the Annuity as a parliamentary qualification. This is a matter of general interest to the members of the Service, and ought to lead to an immediate reconsideration and reconstruction of the principles of the Civil annuity fund. It was argued against him, that "an annuity was no qualification, because the fund, the *corpus*, from which it was drawn, was not in Great Britain, but in Bengal, rendering that part of the qualification of the sitting member entirely insufficient to comply with the terms of the statute; but all the *corpus* of all the funds belonging to the East India Company are in India, and not in England, and to us it appears that by parity of reasoning, no to whose qualification consists of payments made to him at the India House, can be considered eligible for Parliament; which most assuredly cannot be the case. The counsel for the petitioner further stated, that the East India Company were not in law responsible for the payment of this annuity, and had no control over the fund, but merely administered it in the character of agents or bankers. "The East India Company could not be successfully sued for the recovery of the proceeds of the Fund." It appears to us singular that Mr. Prinsep's counsel should have made no effort to destroy the validity of these utterly untenable arguments. So far is it from being the case that the Court of Directors has no control over the fund, and administer it as mere agents and bankers, that not the slightest alteration can be made in it without their express sanction; and the Committee of the Fund are at this present moment on the point of submitting various important modifications of its rules for their approbation, which cannot be passed without it. Neither is it the fact, that the Court of Directors are the mere agents and bankers of the Fund. If the Fund had been created by their servants in India of their own accord on the principle of a Mutual Assurance Company, and the Court of Directors had consented to pay the annuities in England, after they had been paid into their treasury in Calcutta, the argument might have had some weight. But the fund was created by the East India Company, as the Rulers of India, and the Court of Directors guaranteed the payment of an annuity of £1000 a year, in London, to every Civilian who had served twenty-five years, on condition that he should contribute one-half the value of it by monthly deductions from his salary. The Court, in fact, guaranteed a *pension* of £2000 a year to every Civilian after this period of service, payable in London, on condition that he should have created an *annuity* of similar amount from his own resources. The Court, which is a corporate body, created by Act of Parliament, with its Head Quarters in London, though its funds may be scattered all over

Asia, is bound by every legal obligation to pay Mr. Prinsep £1000 a year, and if it were to refuse to pay it after it became due, Mr. Prinsep might sue them in the Civil Courts and recover it. When the counsel stated that the Court could "not be successfully sued for the recovery of the proceeds of this fund," he seems to have been altogether ignorant of the fact that the Court having demurred to the payment of the annuity to Mr. Mordaunt Ricketts, on the ground of some misconduct in India, he brought an action against them, in the London Courts, and recovered the amount. If Mr. Prinsep were to die when any portion of his annuity was due, it would form an asset to his estate in England, and not in India, and no one would ever dream of taking out probate for the recovery of it in this country.

We trust that the present transaction will open the eyes of the Court of Directors to the necessity of making an immediate alteration in the construction of the Fund, and divide the annuity into two distinct parts and declare at once that every Civilian is entitled to a Pension of £500 a year, after twenty-five years of unblemished service, and to as much more, as an Annuity, as his subscriptions may be equal to. This is plain, honest, common sense, though we are not sure it will be any the more welcome for that quality. Had Mr. Prinsep been able to state that he enjoyed a Pension of £500 a year, payable in London, by a Corporate Company, the Parliamentary Committee would never have enquired whether it was derived from the sale of North American furs, or from the tax on salt, or the monopoly of opium, but would have left him the Honourable member for Harwich.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NOTIFICATION.**—Some weeks ago, we offered our final remarks on this important subject, and we are by no means anxious to renew the discussion. But before it passes into oblivion, we are anxious to correct an error into which the great champion of exclusive English education, the *Hurkar*,—has fallen, and to return our warmest thanks to his correspondent "Vindex," for the eminent service he has rendered to the cause we advocate. The *Hurkar* states in his impression of the 10th instant that

"The *Friend of India* has never shown the slightest disposition to encourage the diffusion of English, nor lost an opportunity of crying up the superiority of vernacular education as a means of promoting the moral and intellectual advancement of the people."

It is difficult to conceive, how any editor can have committed so gross a blunder when he had the following declaration from us on the subject before him:

"The Upper Ten thousand have leisure for the acquisition of a foreign tongue; they can give six or eight years to it. Let them apply with the utmost diligence to English, and obtain access to its boundless stores of knowledge. They cannot inhale too much of the language, or imbibe too European in their thoughts and aspirations. The middle and the lower classes, have no time and no facilities for the acquisition of foreign tongues; they cannot expect them to spare more than four years of life for study. This period of time must, therefore, be wisely husbanded, by giving them the knowledge they require through the medium of their own tongue."

To "Vindex" our best thanks are due for the valuable information which he has given us, in the fact, that while forty-one scholars have passed the ordeal of examination, in the Council of Education have substituted for the scheme of Lord Hardinge's Notification, and have thus become qualified for the service of Government, more than Four Hundred of the students of the Government Seminaries and Colleges, have obtained public employment with-

out passing the test of the Council; and that the situations filled by the latter are vastly more important both in influence, responsibility and emolument than those which have been obtained by the former. He has thus furnished us with an unanswerable argument for the modification of that test, not merely in justice to private institutions, but also to those of the state. "Vindex" has fallen into the error of asserting that it was our aim to lower the standard of Education in the Government Colleges. If we had not considerable respect for his character, we should say, this was a gross misrepresentation. There is nothing in any of our articles, which will, in the smallest degree, justify any such assertion. On the contrary, we have distinctly stated, that we consider it a great advantage, that there are so many gentlemen in Calcutta, interested in carrying the education of the Government Institutions to the greatest pitch of perfection. But we object to the adoption of this test of scholarship as the standard of qualification for the public service in general. We object to the plan of requiring natives to pass an examination for the acquisition of situations varying in value from 30 to 300 Rs. a month, which would stagger not a few of the students of Haylebury. The Court of Directors long since intimated their disapprobation of this scheme, on the ground that it would give a monopoly of public offices to the alumni of the Government Colleges; but their wishes have been disregarded for five years, and it appears to be the fixed determination of the Council of Education not to pay the slightest attention to them. After this, to continue the discussion of the question in this country, would be an unjustifiable waste of labor. It must now be referred to the decision of higher powers, whose orders cannot be trampled on—in the approaching arrangements for the Government of India. Every effort, will, therefore, be made to bring the subject in all its bearings before the Committee of East India Enquiry, which will be appointed in the next Session, and to place all the evidence connected with it on record, with a view to some Parliamentary provision in the new Act on the important question of Education in India. The reader must be aware, that these are gentlemen now in England, deeply interested in the intellectual and moral improvement of the country, and fully masters of the history of the subject, and well acquainted with the partialities and prejudices which prevail in Calcutta, who will not fail to present themselves before the Committee.

**THE VERNACULARISTS OF BOMBAY.**—As we wish to record prominently every fact of importance bearing upon the great question of Vernacular Education, we must not pass over a report of a meeting at a Branch School in Bombay, which appears in the *Bombay Gazette* of the 31st instant. It appears, that a number of Hindoos in Bombay have set up a Society for the diffusion of knowledge, which holds meetings every fortnight for the purpose of hearing and discussing lectures on scientific subjects. At one of these meetings, Atmaram, a poet, read aloud a paper in verse on the rotundity of the Earth, and the President of the Society, Frank Lal Muthoojee, afterwards delivered a lecture on the same subject. The audience, consisting of about Two hundred and fifty Guzerattees, listened with the deepest attention, and started several difficulties, all of which were satisfactorily explained by the lecturer. When it is remembered, that the audience consisted of Hindoos, and not of Parsees, whom we are accustomed to regard as an ex-

ceptional people, and that every assertion made by the lecturer must have wounded some favourite prejudice, and every demonstration have destroyed some religious delusion, we will appreciate the zeal for knowledge which induced such an audience to listen for two hours to the discussion of such a subject. Bitter lecture in the Vernacular that we have yet noticed given at Bombay, has attracted crowds, and in all cases, the audience have shown their interest in the subject by continuous questioning.

#### COST OF THE BOMBAY STEAM PACKETS.

We have always been accustomed to think that the determination of the Court of Directors to retain their Indian Navy in spite of the apparently enormous expense, was one of those resolutions which could only be accounted for by that very expressive monosyllabic, "idiot!" The patronage is worth little or nothing, as there does not appear to be a superfluity of applications for the honour of becoming a shipwrecker in the Honourable Company's Service, and the Court has itself confessed that the Navy is of little use except as a Packet service. Its retention, therefore, for that purpose alone, appeared to ordinary eyes to be a very questionable measure, but the *Telegraph and Courier* of the 2nd June, has published a Parliamentary document, which throws a strong light, both upon the general question of the determination of the Court to retain their navy, and their particular anxiety to defend their Steam Packet Service. We still think they were right in declining to give a monopoly of Steam communication in the Eastern Seas to a single powerful Company, but the accounts published below, show that their resolution was even more creditable to their character as men of business, than we had suspected. The document purports to be:—

"A statement, showing the Total Cost of transmitting the mails and despatches between Bombay and Suet by the *East India Company*, and the *East India Company*, which has been granted out of the revenue of the United Kingdom, during the year 1848 and 1849, (the latest period for which the accounts can be presented be made up), including wages, victualling, and allowances of crews and engineers, coals and engine stores, and sea stores, and an allowance of ten per cent. for repairs, five per cent. for depreciation, six per cent. for sea risk in lieu of premium of insurance, and four per cent. interest per annum on the total first cost of the vessels employed; the net amount of passage money received by the *East India Company* deducting victualling and allowances to the Commanders or other persons for the same periods.—The cost as to the cost of transmitting the bi-monthly mails between Bombay and Aden."

The meaning of this accumulation of words is that the account to which it serves as an introduction, is a Return of the cost to the *East India Company*, of conveying the Mail between Bombay and Suet, and Bombay and Aden. In order to make the statement as clear as possible, we have published it in another column, in the form adopted by the Court, while we give the results of the table in a different shape, and a more prominent position. The line between Suet and Bombay cost the Government in the year 1848-49.

For wages and allowances, ...	15,588 6
Victualling, coals, and stores, ...	38,656
Expenses in Egypt, ...	17,170
Total expenses, ...	75,835 6
Money received for passage and freight, ...	18,890 6
Postal grant paid from the revenues of Great Britain, ...	50,000
Total Receipts, ...	68,900 6
Balance of cost, ...	6,935 6
If the vessels employed in this service had been	















grant Major H. P. Burn, Deputy Secretary to the Board of Administration in the Punjab, leave of absence for four













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Rs. yearly if paid in advance.

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**ROYAL OVERLAND MAIL FOR P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDUSTAN,"** leaving for the Straits, the India, Java, and the intermediate Ports (Aden, Calcutta, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hong Kong), intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steamer "Hindustan," which will be closed at this Office, on Wednesday, the 28th July, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Thursday, the 29th July, with the ordinary Mail, and that the first of the Overland Packets will be closed at and despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 11th Aug.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
The Government of Bombay have appointed the 28th of the month of July for the departure of the next Steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Sumatra. Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the last date for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Saturday, the 24th Proximo, and that the first of the Overland Packets will be closed at and despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 11th Aug.

**J. B. BELLON BUREAU,**  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, the 28th June, 1881.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donation:  
From E. W. H. Co.'s No. 10, to the Deservient Institution, Calcutta.

**STATE OF THE POLICE IN THE DISTRICT AROUND CALCUTTA.**—Last week, we published a very brief account of the present state of the Police in the districts which border the metropolis, by which we mean those of Howrah, Baranagar, Hooghly, Bardwan, Kishanganur, and the 24-Pargannas, and we are not sorry to find from communications subsequently received, that there is no other objection to our statements except that they are far below the truth. This large range of country may be said to be completely in possession of organized—and unfortunately unchecked, and uncontrolled—gangs of dacoits, who are daily becoming more and more emboldened by the impunity they enjoy, and the manifest inability of the police to cope with them. No man of property is certain that he is not marked out as the next victim, and his exemption from plunder is owing, not to the vigilance and energy of the police, but to his own success in concealing his property. While our last article was in type, one of the gangs started from Calcutta, and fell on the house of a man of property in a village on the banks of the river, not more than three miles from Government House at Barrackpore, and having completely despoiled it of all that was valuable, quietly and securely took their departure. The state of insecurity among the native community has reached its climax, and the people have ceased to look to the Government establishments for protection. The efficiency of the present system of dacoity is of course to be ascribed to the inefficiency of the Police, and the inefficiency of the Police to the deficiency of our laws and institutions, which are found to be unequal to the new exigency which has arisen. A dacoit laughs to scorn the idea of being committed to the Sessions for trial. He knows that his acquittal is all but a matter of certainty, and his conviction the merest accident. Experience has now taught us that the cumbersome machinery of our criminal Courts only serves to aid and abet the crime. If we would root out these growing disorders, and restore peace and security to the people, we must at once take the field in earnest, and manifest the same

ardor of purpose in the enterprise which we did when endeavoring to eradicate the Pindarees. Upon this undertaking we must concentrate all our energies. We must make the country too hot for the dacoits, and break up their gangs, and transfer four or five hundred of the most active of them to the Tanasserim provinces. The instructions which the Government of India is said to have sent to the Government of Bengal, must necessarily lead to a deep and thorough investigation—it is the first question of the day—and this investigation to new legislation, and more vigorous and concentrated action. We have the same kind of duty to perform which devolved on us in the case of Thuggism; and we must use the experience which our exertions and our success in that department have furnished.

The misfortunes of the districts around Calcutta, have been aggravated by the efficiency which has been imparted within the last eighteen months to the Calcutta Police. That large city is not only the "commercial capital of Bengal," and the metropolis of British India, but the head quarters of crime. All the most turbulent and daring characters in the surrounding country are drawn to it by the great facilities it affords for concealment, for the planning of expeditions, and for the dispersion and disposal of plundered property. Hundreds of individuals could be pointed out who are living a life of apparent innocence in Calcutta, but who are ready for any new expedition of dacoity which may present itself, and who are the terror of the neighbouring districts. The efficiency of the present metropolitan Police system, by curtailing the opportunities for depredation within the limits of the town, have constrained the dacoits to depend more on their operations in the country. Calcutta is thus the seat of the gangs; and notwithstanding the strong disposition to afford every assistance to the cause of order manifested by its Police authorities, still the difference of jurisdiction, of system, and of forms, gives a great advantage to the dacoits, of which they are not slow to avail themselves; and in any new arrangements which may be devised to meet the present emergency, provision must be made for a more active, and instantaneous co-operation between the country and the town establishments.

But, supposing the present system of dacoity, which has now come to a head, to be broken up, a new organization will soon be formed, unless a permanent reform can be effected in our Police establishments throughout the country. The failure of our Police arrangements is unquestionably the most signal failure of any of the institutions established under our rule, and it is to be attributed to our neglect of the ancient, time honored, prescriptive institution of the Rural Police. When our rulers in 1789 were framing the code which, with slight variations, still continues in force, they do not seem to have had any conception of the vast importance of this institution to the peace and welfare of the country. Hence no provision was made for maintaining its efficiency, or bringing it into a state of subordination to the regular police of the districts. Nothing could be more false and unsatisfactory than the enactments on this subject. It was simply ordered, that the Zemindars should deliver to the Magistrates a

list of the chowkedars in every case where the right of nomination rested with them. In some cases, the Zemindars have refused to appoint any chowkedars at all. In no case is there any provision for the mode of their appointment, for punctuality in the payment of their wages, or for defining and enforcing their responsibilities. They form a body of 180,000 men, clothed with much local power, under no direct control, and always irregularly and under-paid. Is it any wonder that they should be found in league with the disturbers of the peace, or that in too many instances, they should endeavor to obtain by irregular and nefarious means that subsistence which is denied them by the institutions of the British Government? Men who thus hang loose on society, with great opportunities of mischief, must necessarily be at the call of those who will pay them best. There is scarcely a dacoity in which some chowkedar is not involved; and not one which they could not prevent if it were their interest to do their duty as village watchmen.

Let us take for example, one district in Behar, of which the Police statistics are immediately at hand.

It consists of ...	5,888 square miles.
The number of villages in, ...	7,801
The number of houses in, ...	2,08,312
The population, ...	13,55,793
The number of village Chowkedars is estimated at, ...	6,300
The regular police establishment of all grades, from the Darogah to the Burkundah, ...	228
The annual cost of this establishment is less than ...	20,000 Rs.

In these circumstances, with one constable for Thirty-four villages, and more than six thousand irresponsible, ill-paid, uncontrolled village watchmen, open to every sinister attraction, no one can be surprised at the small protection there is for property, or the amazing fertility of crime—yet, the district we have quoted has been considered one of the best managed under the Bengal Government. The first, and most important of all questions, therefore, is the re-organization of the Rural Police, and the punctual payment of the stipends which, according to the most ancient of all the institutions in the country, is their just due. These 180,000 men may be considered as the private of our Police establishment, and unless they can be brought under due discipline, and subordination, and kept strictly to their duties, there can be no prospect of peace or security. The mode of their selection should be fixed, the source of their allowances, whether from the villagers, or zemindars clearly defined, and—as men instinctively obey those who pay them—their allowances should be paid by the Magistrate, in the same manner as his own establishment is now paid, while the duty of collecting the chowkedars' funds should devolve on the Collectors. The village watchmen would thus be led to consider themselves the servants of Government, which is the first step in re-



compliance. On the other hand, the question is still more complicated by the fact that the Hindus themselves maintain that they are to receive her from the continuation of her husband's society, will not allow the marriage to be dissolved, so as to enable her to marry again, but intend to confine her, as it respects, to perpetual widowhood, with all its afflictions, dangers, and degradations. On the whole, we cannot but conclude that while the rights of the Christian husband have been fully preserved, those of the Hindu wife have been, to some extent, unnecessarily compromised.

**THE CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITY FUND.**—We have the pleasure of publishing a communication from a correspondent who assumes the signature of "Regulation," relative to our remarks on the justice of refunding to the Civilian the excess of their subscriptions beyond the half value of the annuity; and we shall at once proceed to offer our explanations on the three points which he has mooted.

*First.* Our correspondent thinks that we draw an unnecessary distinction between those who were originally invited to join the Fund when it was first established, and those who were subsequently constrained to become members of it on their admission to the service. But the distinction appears, in our humble opinion, to be essential to an equitable decision of the question under review. We do not assert, as our correspondent seems to think, that the one class is entitled to any greater benefits from the Fund than the other; but we maintain that the two classes joined the Fund under different arrangements, and that they have each a right to claim the maintenance of the conditions on which they entered it. When the Fund originally received the sanction of the Court of Directors, when as yet it had no form, and scarcely an existence, the members of the Civil Service were "specially invited to join it," because the condition of its establishment was that two-thirds of the members should support it. To induce them to do so, the Court endeavored to render it as attractive as possible. The Committee of the Service who first addressed the Court on the subject, proposed that the Service should pay two-thirds of the value of the annuity, and that its amount should be limited to 7000 Rs. a year. But the Court determined to reduce the contributions of the members to one-half the value, and to raise the annuity to 10000 Rs. a year. The favourable terms which the Court offered, and which formed the inducement for the Service to join the Fund, are embodied in their despatch of the 8th December, 1824. The Rules, though agreeing in substance with those which were submitted by the service to the Directors, were passed subsequently to the acceptance of the scheme by two-thirds of the service. It is therefore the conditions stated in the Court's despatch, which regulated the obligations of those who were induced by that despatch to join the fund. Now, if there were any discrepancy between it and the rules, it is the despatch which must determine the interpretation of the rules. Hence, therefore, like the difference between those who came forward to create the Fund by assenting to the invitation of the Court, and those who have subsequently entered the service, and as a part of their terms are constrained to become members of it. The expectations and the obligations of the former are regulated by the despatch, which was before them when they assented to organizing the Fund; the expectations of the latter by the rules which were in force at the time of their entry into the service, and the Fund.

*Secondly.* Our correspondent states that it is unduly true, as stated by the managers of the Fund, that the rules contain not a word entitling the subscriber to receive back any part of his payments under any circumstances, neither do the rules contain a word from which it can be implied that the framers contemplated the refund of subscriptions in excess of half the value of an annuity taken. But when the rules are silent on any point, or have left any point ambiguous, we must resort to the original despatch of the Court of Directors, the great Charter of the Fund—for the elucidation of it. Now, the despatch expressly states that all servants on becoming annuitants will be required to pay the half value of their annuities, and no more. An attempt has been made to explain away this decisive expression by referring it to a particular section of subscribers. But the construction is a forced one, and has carried conviction to the minds of but few; only, indeed, of those whose minds had been previously made up on the subject. But if there is a doubt about the bearing of the expression, the subsequent despatch of the Court completely clears up the matter, and leaves not a shadow of doubt that "the framers," did originally contemplate the strict limitation of the subscription to the half value. The Court of Directors have stated in a subsequent communication of the 1st September, 1841, that "the refund of excess subscriptions paid by retiring annuitants beyond the half value of their annuities, is in accordance with the regulations of the Fund." It is impossible for any language to be more explicit and unequivocal. This is a declaration by those who originally created the Fund, of the principle on which they intended to establish it; which was, "that all annuitants should be placed on an equal footing," and that if at the time of taking the annuity, the monthly subscription of the annuitant did not equal one-half its value, he should make good the difference; if it exceeded that value, the excess should be refunded to him. So much for the original intention of the "framers" of the Fund. But this intention has also been illustrated and established, first, by the conduct of the Court of Directors, and, secondly, by that of the Managers of the Fund themselves. The arrangement of the Court was that they should contribute a sum equal to that paid by the subscribers. When the subscriber therefore paid more than the half value of the annuity, the Court was constrained to do the same, but they have peremptorily withdrawn their portion of this excess, by making it available to a reduction of their future contributions, under the provisions contained in their despatch of the 8th December 1824. In these circumstances, it would be not only an anomaly, but an act of injustice, to refuse a refund of the other half of the excess to the members who have contributed it. Again, during the period when annuities were granted at a quarter value, the managers themselves refunded to the annuitant the excess of his subscriptions beyond that quarter value, and upon every principle of reason and equity all payments beyond the half value should, in like manner, be returned.

*Thirdly.* Our correspondent states that it is required by the first rule of the Fund that the subscribers shall from the first of May 1826, contribute, for the purposes of the fund four per cent. of their salaries, and all other public emoluments. But this rule brings no aid whatever to his hypothesis. It is intended simply to explain the source from which the Fund is to be created, that is, from a contribution of four per cent. on salaries and

emoluments, but is certainly cannot be understood to mean, that the contribution shall be repaid after the half value has been completed, except by an unreasoned construction; which it would be unwise to adopt. If it had been intended to provide that the subscriber should continue his subscription after the object had been attained, nothing would have been easier than to have inserted the clause, "as long as he shall remain in the service." The omission of such a phrase, when viewed in connection with the fundamental principle of the Fund, as stated above, seems to us most clearly to indicate, that it was not the scope and design of the rules to compel a subscriber to make any payment beyond the stipulated half value of his annuity.

We have only one more remark to offer. The Report of the Committee states (page 80). "Indeed it may not improperly be said, that the Fund is constituted to provide nine annuities per annum of 6000 Rs. each, the sources from which funds become available for that purpose, are as follows:

*First.*—The subscription of the Honorable Court.

*Secondly.*—The subscriptions of those members of the service who die or who retire from it without taking annuities.

*Thirdly.*—The excess subscriptions of those members of the service who do eventually retire on the annuity, but who do so at an advanced age when have they subscribed an amount more than sufficient to purchase that portion of the annuity for which they are required to pay.

*Fourthly.*—The liberal sale of interest-secured by the Hon. Court on the assets of the Fund."

Now it is worthy of especial remark that the third source of income, mentioned above, the excess subscriptions beyond the half value—which is the very matter in debate—is entirely a modern interpolation. When the Court established the Fund in 1824, they clearly defined the sources of its income, or as they expressed it, "the means by which the advantages of the Fund might be secured; and in these terms:

"*First.*—By subscriptions from Civil servants proportioned to their official income.

"*Secondly.*—Contributions from the Company.

"*Thirdly.*—Fines from subscribers on becoming annuitants."

Here we have not the smallest allusion to the excess of subscriptions, as a source of income; and the inevitable conclusion to which we are driven is, that it never was the intention of the "framers" of the Fund in Leadenhall Street to call upon any subscriber, for more than half the value of his annuity, and to appropriate the excess to the benefit of the fund; and we feel confident that if ever the question is submitted to the consideration of a Court of Law or Equity, the refund of all excess will be immediately decreed.

**THE LATE MR. C. TUCKER AND CAPTAIN**

**COLE.**—During the past week, the community in Calcutta has had to mourn the removal by death of two of its most esteemed members. Mr. Charles Tucker was one of the oldest Civilian at the Presidency, having come out in the year 1808. He has, for many years, been the senior Judge of the Sudder Dewanny Adawlut, where, by his conciliatory demeanor, and his close attention to business, as long as his health permitted, he acquired the esteem and confidence of all parties. He was not possessed of the eminent judicial talents with which Chalmers, and Harrington, and Stuart, and Courtney

Smith, adorned the Bench, but his long acquaintance with the laws and practices of the Court, and his invariable amity of disposition, served in no small degree to prolong the public estimation in which that tribunal had been held. In the private walks of life, he was endearing to a large circle of friends by the warmth of his attachments, and among the public in general, he was chiefly known by his large charities, and his unflinching encouragement of every plan of benevolence, without distinction of sect or denomination. About three years ago, he was constrained to go to the Cape for his health, when he ought at once to have retired to his native land. The great benefits he derived from his residence there tempted him to return to Calcutta, under the impression that there was yet a twelve months' work in him. But he soon found his strength fail, and he returned only to die.

Captain Cope, was only half Mr. Tucker's age, when a very brief illness carried him to a premature grave. He commanded one of the monthly Government steamers which ply between Calcutta, Arracan, and Moulmein, and thus became known not only to all the members of society in those provinces, but also to a very large circle in Calcutta, among whom his death will be most sincerely lamented. To all the frankness and freedom of the sailor, he added as benevolence and liberal a heart as ever warmed a human being. We think it may be said with perfect truth, that not an individual ever made his acquaintance who does not remember him with feelings of strong attachment. Few men connected with the port of Calcutta have ever succeeded in making themselves such general favorites in society. To sail in the same vessel with him always gave an additional attraction to the voyage, and no man ever quitted the vessel, without a strong admiration of the kindness, the open heartedness, and the genuine benevolence which distinguished his character.

THE CHINA LEAF, commenced last month with so much public spirit by the Peninsula and Oriental Company, has proved successful beyond our most sanguine expectations. The first vessel, the *Brat*, has just returned from Hong-Kong, and the following is the report of her movements:

Left Calcutta, ...	11th May.	9 A.M.
Arrived at Penang, ...	17th do.	9 A.M.
Arrived at Singapore, ...	19th do.	9 A.M.
Arrived at Hong-Kong, ...	26th do.	9 A.M.
Left Hong-Kong, ...	4th June.	2 P.M.
Arrived at Singapore, ...	11th do.	10 A.M.
Arrived at Penang, ...	14th do.	2 P.M.
Arrived at the Sandheads, ...	19th do.	Noon.
Arrived at Calcutta, ...	20th do.	3 P.M.

The total time under steam was 27 days and 12 hours. She was in port 12 days and 9 hours, and 10 hours were spent in assisting two vessels in distress. The steamer has not only made the voyage to China and back in a very short time, but has reaped a large return for the enterprise, without any extraordinary assistance.

It would be difficult to over-estimate the benefit of this line, in a political, a commercial, and a sanitary point of view, and we fully concur with all our contemporaries in offering the warmest gratitude of the community to the Directors of the Company. We did at first suspect that the charges both of freight and passage money were too high; but, all circumstances considered, they could not well have been lower, at first. The Company is fully justified in making the most of the opportunity which has been created by its own

spontaneous exertions. This is the first undertaking of the kind in the East which has yielded a sufficient return without the fostering care of the state, and this circumstance of itself is calculated to bring competitors into the line, either from England or America. The first harvest will, therefore, be the richest, and those who have been the first to cultivate the field, have unquestionably the first right to it.

CAPTAIN STOCKLEY.—We regret to find that we have inadvertently omitted to record the acquittal of Captain Stockley, commanding the Bhoel corps, of the ten charges brought against him by Lieutenant Campbell, the second in command. We have received a communication on the subject, and on turning to the *Rossby Telegraph* of the 6th instant, we find that our contemporary has also received information, that the result of the Court Martial had been communicated by the Bombay Government to the Governor General, who lost no time in signifying his entire concurrence in the honorable acquittal of Captain Stockley of all and every charge. Lieutenant Campbell has been remanded to his corps as "a person not fit to be again selected for staff or detached employment." While the Governor General admits the justice of the entire acquittal of Captain Stockley, he has not failed to signify his extreme dissatisfaction at the neglect of that officer to keep a proper account of all the monies connected with that corps.

THE MADRAS SCHOOL OF INDUSTRY.—It is an old saying that in India those who are most loaded with business, do most voluntary work, and the remark can scarcely be better applied than to Dr. Hunter of Madras. In addition to the ordinary duties of a Presidency Surgeon, which he performs, according to our Madras contemporaries, most efficiently, he has made experiments in almost every variety of Art manufacture, he has brought the pottery at Chingleput into a prosperous state, has started a monthly journal of Science, the whole of which, some sixty octavo pages, is written by his own hand, and has established a School of Industry and Art, which has been crowned with a success almost unparalleled in India. We take his own modest account of his labours from the *Spectator*, and recommend it to the especial attention of our readers, as a singular instance of the amount of good which can be effected by a single individual, endowed with knowledge and perseverance. Dr. Hunter had at first intended that the benefits of his instruction should be felt both by East Indians and Natives, and he is still anxious to obtain Native Students, but he finds that they are unwilling to comply with one rule which he has always rigorously enforced. He requires every Student who enters himself at the School to display his aptitude for work, for a short time by real, hard, manual labour. The boys are set first to scraping Buffalo horns, and then polishing them, which is not a very interesting occupation, and afterwards to pound plaster of Paris, which is rather a dirty one. The East Indians willingly submit to this preliminary drudgery, but the "intelligent and educated" natives, entertain a very decided objection to soil their fingers, and wear out their intellects in such degrading occupations. Dr. Hunter deserves credit for the firmness, with which he has maintained this useful regulation, and he bears witness to its perfect success among the East Indian community. Already have furnaces been set up, and work turned out, although of course, the latter is as yet many degrees distant from the perfection to

which Dr. Hunter hopes his pupils will ultimately attain. We have no need to wish for success in this good work, for he is sure to be successful, but we do wish he may yet find many imitators.

JAPAN AND CHINA.—THE RECORDS AND THE MEMORIALS.—The Emperor of Japan in a curious memoir, translated in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, and republished in the *Herald*, some months ago, is said to have expressed his absolute determination, not to admit the ingress of foreigners to Japan. His Majesty, with considerable effect, pointed to the neighbouring Empire of China, which had been exposed to all kinds of dangers from its intercourse with the "outside barbarians," and declared his conviction, that his own policy was the best calculated to preserve the peace of his subjects, and the integrity of his dominions. We believe, the view taken by the Emperor, though very narrow, was right to a certain extent—but the question is now to be put to the test, whether he can maintain his system of complete segregation from the rest of mankind, and whether one of the richest and most fertile countries in the world, is still to be known to Europe only as the place where they make keasuper was almost equal to paper mouch, and whose wife is a master of grave official etiquette. An extract from the *Pagodes*, published in the *Friend of China*, informs us, that the Naval Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States, were about to report a bill, for a regular line of Steamers from San Francisco to Shanghai. The *Engleclimen* of the 21st instant, further reports that two American war steamers have arrived at San Francisco, and are to be despatched to Jeddo, with a request, that the Government of Japan will allow the Republic the privilege of a coaling station. Mr. Balester, the American Consul at Singapore, has already started for Jeddo, which, we believe, three vessels under his command, so that his request will be enforced by the presence of a fleet, which would annihilate the whole naval power of Japan, in a few hours. Whether this persuasive argument is likely to have its due weight with the Emperor, remains to be seen, but the officers of the Republic are not much used to take a denial, and it is evident that the United States Government have an object in view of more importance than their ostensible design. As the *Engleclimen* remarks, one of the Bonin or Ladrone isles, would be far more useful as a coaling station, but those groups do not possess the same commercial attractions as the Japanese Empire. It is within the bounds of possibility, that the Japanese Cabinet in the haughty confidence of ignorance, may order the immediate departure of the Envoy, and, upon his refusal, attempt to employ force, in which case the coaling station would probably be "seized" without the formality of the Emperor's permission.

In the meantime, circumstances are occurring in China, which though little noticed, even by some of the local journals, may ultimately turn out to be of the deepest importance to British interests in that country. From time to time, we have noticed the reports which have appeared in the *China Journals* of the progress of a rebellion, which broke out about nine months ago, in the province of Kwang-si, and which, though declared by one party to be a mere affair of bandits, has gradually grown into a formidable political movement. The Chinese of the Southern Provinces have always been ill-afflicted to the *Yen-tse* dynasty, and



great efforts were made by the father of the present Emperor, to extinguish the remnant of the old native Chinese dynasty of Ming. These efforts it appears, have not been successful, and a descendant of that line is at the head of the present movement. He has assumed the title of Emperor, with the designation of Tien-tah, or "Virtue of Heaven" and is said to be obeyed throughout three-fifths of the province of Kwangsi. The Tartar officials are making the most determined attempts to prevent any detailed information of the revolt from passing the boundaries of the province, but the facts which, nevertheless, gradually come out, show not only that the party of Tien-tah is gaining ground, but that the Cabinet of Peking is seriously alarmed at the position of affairs. The Governor of the province, a Mandarin of the name of Ching-Tan-Shin is denounced by the Governor General of Canton as indolent, and infirm, and without a seeker of popularity, but he himself is not in high favour at Peking, and the Cabinet have despatched several special Commissioners to investigate the affair. The well known Commissioner Lin was the first of the number, but he died on the road, and three Mandarins of the very highest rank, one of them the Prime Minister of the Empire, have since been despatched to the scene. They are to collect troops and stores on the road, but they do not appear to be strong enough to enter the disturbed province by the direct route, a fact which appears conclusive of the strength of the rebel force. A requisition has been sent to Su for one million of taels, about thirty-three lakhs of rupees, but he is said to be unable to raise the money. Bulletins of great victories are regularly issued by the Tartar authorities, but they are as regularly contradicted by the evidence of circumstances, while at the same time, numerous officers of rank have been degraded for cowardice. The Emperor's own officers of that he will summarily execute any officer who shrinks from his duty in this crisis, and has ordered the immediate execution of all persons wearing any badge of Tien-tah's party. Unfortunately for themselves, the latter have adopted the absurd device of cutting off their tails, which enables the authorities to cut off their heads with most sanguinary expedition. It is impossible to extract from the mass of conflicting statements which have reached us, anything like a consistent idea of the probable termination of the contest, but at present the advantage appears to be decisively on the side of the native dynasty.

Whichever way the contest may terminate, it can scarcely fail to be favourable, both to the influence of Europeans in the country, and to the general interests of British commerce. Should Tien-tah be successful in his revolt, and succeed in establishing an independent dynasty in the Southern provinces, he will not be able to maintain the system of rigorous exclusion, so much in favour at Peking, and he would, in all probability, consider it his interest to court the favour of the "outside barbarians." On the other hand, should the rebellion be eventually suppressed, it cannot fail, from the large sacrifice of men and money it entails, still further to weaken a Cabinet which lost the prestige of its invincibility in the disastrous campaign of 1862. As Englishmen, we can feel no regret at the crippling of a dynasty which has paid so little attention to the treaties made with us, and which within the last few months, has shown the most unequivocal symptoms of hostility to the Europeans. Not the least of the advantages of the contest will be the chance of opening a new channel of communication with

a country, containing one-third of the human race, and which, notwithstanding the residence of Englishmen on its borders for more than half a century, and the humiliation to which it has been subjected by our arms, is less known to us than Terra del Fuego or Paraguay. Among the signs of the times, we think we can discern in the future a probability of the opening of the great empires of China and Japan, to Anglo-Saxon energy and Anglo-Saxon commerce.

**SINGAPORE AND ITS REVENUES.**—The *Singapore Free Press* of the 30th of May last, which we have just received, gives us a "Statement of the receipts and disbursements of that settlement for the year 1850-51 in the three departments of Civil, Military and Convict establishments," and we are happy to perceive, that it is so much more satisfactory than the last. Some six or eight years ago, Singapore was enabled to pay the expense of all its establishments in every department. The receipts subsequently fell behind the expenditure to the extent of nearly 150,000 Rs. This was a very insignificant deficiency for a settlement so valuable in a commercial point of view; but still it exhibited a state of financial deterioration which it was desirable to correct, and we are now happy to state that the receipts and the disbursements are as nearly equal as they can be expected to be; thus:

Receipts, .....	435,311 Rs.
Outgo, .....	435,400

More than three-fourths of the Revenue is derived from the Excise farms; the amount of Quit rent is 21,198 Rs., and the fees from the Court of Judicature, Rs. 20,823. The entire expense of the Government of every kind, sort, shape, and description, civil, political, criminal, fiscal, marine, medical, and ecclesiastical, amounts to 240,212 Rs., and the expenses incurred by the military service at Singapore, Rs. 195,248. This is a very creditable picture. Here we have one of the most important entrepôts of British commerce in the east, with a trade equal to that of Calcutta while the Hon. Company were its merchants, paying all the expenses of its establishment, and providing also for the expense of the troops serving there. It is altogether a self-supporting settlement.

We must not, however, forget to mention that the Statement exhibits a nett deficit of Co.'s Rs. 57,942; and we are free to acknowledge that we have never derived half so much pleasure from the appearance of a surplus, in any account, as we obtain from this representation of a deficiency. This sum is, in fact, the amount expended in maintaining the convicts, who are poured into Singapore from the Continent of India. The Government of India, not content with turning Singapore into a penal settlement, has long endeavored to throw the support of these convicts on the residents of that settlement. As if it were not enough that they should defray all the expenses of their own Government from their own contributions, they are expected to raise a further sum in order to relieve the Imperial revenues of India, which in the gross amount to Twenty-seven millions sterling, from the cost of all the rogues and villains sentenced to transportation. What would the patriots at the Cape have said, if in addition to the disgrace of receiving a convict population they had also been constrained to support them? Yet this is the measure needed out to this important settlement. We are delighted therefore to find that the local resources of the settlement have not been sufficient to meet this imposition, and that it will be necessary to draw on the Treasury of Calcutta for the

redemption, the clothing, and the superintendence of the Convicts. We trust, the settlement will never in future raise funds for this purpose, but on every occasion stop short of this expenditure, and cast it upon the shoulders of those who ought to bear it. Indeed, Government could not, in our opinion, do better than direct this item of convict expenditure to be set out disallowed in the accounts. At present it would appear as though the obnoxious charge was retained, in the hope that at some time or other it would be paid from the local taxes.

**MISSION IN THE PROVINCE OF KUMAON.**—We have been favored with a highly interesting statement regarding the Mission which has recently been established in the Province of Kumaon. It is now thirty-five years since this province came under the direct control of the British Government, and much has been done during the period for the physical improvement of the people, but little or nothing for their moral and religious instruction. Recently, however, some of the Christian residents in the place made a proposal to the Rev. J. H. Budden, connected with the London Missionary Society, to raise funds for his support, if he could obtain the consent of the Society to direct his labours to the province. A favourable reply was received, and a meeting was held at Almora on the 25th of August last year, when the Kumaon Mission was formally commenced; a Committee was formed, and it was determined that the arrangements should take effect from the 1st of January in the present year. An overture had at the same time been made by a private party on his own responsibility to Mr. W. Bebb, who formerly had charge of the station at Meerut, which was accepted, and he arrived in Almora in the month of March, a few weeks previous to Mr. Budden. The Mission which has thus been established in this very interesting province, is intended to be independent of the mother country for its support. The statement says, it is believed to be the first in this country which has aimed at this object, and has not at the same time been dependent on the resources of a single individual. This, however, is an error. The Mission which the late Dr. Haslerin endeavored to establish in the East of Bengal, was founded on the principle of drawing all its support from the country itself; but, the constant fluctuation, and the rapid mutation of society, were found to render the plan impracticable. We sincerely hope that better success will attend the spirited effort which has now been made. And when we look at the noble contributions which have been given it, and which exceed 4500 Rs. exclusive of the sum realized at a Fair at Nynoo Tal, amounting to 1600 Rs. the prospect of its continuance appears to be very bright.

The mission has been so recently established that Mr. Budden cannot have much progress to report. A commencement has been made; convenient premises have been engaged in Almora adjoining the bazar, and one of the houses has been fitted up as a Chapel. The School which has been opened numbered at the beginning of the year 87 boys, of whom 21 are reckoned in the English department, 32 in the Persian, and 34 in the Sanskrit. It appears singular, that in this remote province, so large a number of boys should prefer the study of that abstruse language. Some opposition was made when the school commenced the introduction of Geography, and Scripture reading, which were new and strange to both pupils and parents. To counteract this feeling, prizes were offered for

those who gave their hearty attention to them. In addition to this school, an attempt has been made, though not with success, to open an infant school, and to give religious instruction to the people; but it is considered more advisable to concentrate the efforts of the Mission on the establishment and consolidation of the School, before entering on more public and direct missionary operations. We here take leave of this infant mission with the warmest wishes for its success, and, the hope of having a very satisfactory report of its progress next year.

## WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19**

—The *Agra Messenger* announces on the authority of a trustworthy correspondent, that information had been received in Loodianah of the death of Dost Mahommed, the Amir of Kabul. Our contemporary does not, however

**Charles Napier.**  
 The *Madras Spectator* intimates that there is a strong probability that a reduced Havildar named Khader Khan, was the murderer of Lieutenant Johnstone, by a knife, and that the threatening letter written by him was the view of a cunning rascal. This Havildar is the man first suspected, and there was a belief that he had escaped from confinement at the same time when the murder was committed. Moreover, a loaded weapon, between a musket and a pistol, has been found in his possession. The natives of Semandra to whom the men of the Regiment are well known, received intelligence of the affair long before the dawn arrived, and they with us are now declared that the perpetrator of the murder was Khader Khan.

— Another daring instance of piracy by Chinese from different quarters, is related in the western end of the Chinese Journal. A large junk, loaded with opium, silk, and other goods, left Peking on the 14th May, with forty-five Macao Chinese on board. On the evening of the second day the Macao Chinese rose and transferred the whole of the opium to the deck, consulting of African slaves. Fortunately, the

specie, left Peking on the 14th May, with forty-five Macao Chinese on board. On the evening of the second day of the Miao Chinese revolt she transferred the whole of the crew on deck, consisting of fifteen men. Fortunately, she























# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND C. CO.'S "HARRISON."**  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for India, and the intermediate Ports (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Harrington* will be closed at this Office, on Wednesday, the 24 July, and that on after packet will be despatched hence on Thursday, the 25 Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Redjeh, in time to reach the Suez. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Harrington* can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 20th of the ensuing month of July for the departure of the ordinary Mail for India, and the intermediate Ports, notice is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Saturday, the 12th Inst., and that the first of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 13th Idem.

J. R. BEALTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge  
Gen. Post Office, the 10th June, 1851.

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The English Mail of the 24th May arrived in Calcutta on Saturday, the 28th instant, after an unusually rapid passage of thirty-five days, thus giving the residents of Calcutta and its vicinity, full time to reply to all their European letters. The intelligence is of the smallest possible interest, and the attractions of the Crystal Palace appear to have extinguished those of the House of Commons. The papers are still teeming with the Exhibition; everything from leading articles to Mosses's advertisements contains some allusion to the World's Fair, and endless conjectures as to the probable profits of the show, appear in the English, and American Journals. As, right have been expected, the *Xankees* made the shrewdest "calculation," and one of the New York papers most hostile to the Exhibition has fired upon a sum exceeding half a million as the probable proceeds of the undertaking. No account have been the receipts, that the Commissioners are in doubt, as to what object they should be applied, and the purchase of the whole Exhibition as it stands, has already been discussed. It is not likely, however, that such a step will be resolved upon, but all idea of removing the Crystal Palace has been abandoned. The total cost of the building will be as nearly as possible £230,000, and the following sums have already been received towards its liquidation:—

Subscriptions throughout Eng- land, ... ..	£561,511
Twenty-five thousand season tickets at an average of £3, ...	75,000
Few taken at the entrance up to May 21st, ... ..	40,000
	£170,511

There were nine more days of admission for those who pay five shillings, which were expected to yield Twenty thousand pounds, and then the doors would be thrown open to the shilling visitors. Sixty thousand persons were expected on the first day, and there is little doubt, that sums varying from two to three thousand pounds per day will be taken for the first month. All this is entirely independent of such trifles as £5,500 paid for the exclusive right to sell refreshments, and £3,200 for the exclusive right to print the Catalogue. The Exhibition has been a great success in every point of view, and

has gone far to redeem the English people from the stigma which attached to them, of spending twice as much money upon their buildings as any other nation, and producing nothing but varied forms of heavy ugliness.

The Political business of the fortnight has consisted chiefly in talking, but the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill has been advanced a stage, though not without much difficulty, and has got safely into Committee. When it will get out again is exceedingly doubtful, as there are amendments to be discussed upon almost every line of every clause. Apparently, however, the House is resolved to pass the Ministerial Bill as fast as the Irish Members will allow it, and so get rid of the subject. Motions for Mr. Hume's Little Charter, for the abolition of the punishment of death, and for relieving Van Dieman's Land of convicts, were made during the fortnight, but in general without the smallest result. Lord Grey, however, was obliged to give a kind of constitutional promise, that convicts should be sent only to those colonies which had applied for them. These are now reduced to two, and his Lordship pointed out with some force, that the question of secondary punishments must shortly be brought before that House in all its bearings, as it would soon be impossible to get rid of the criminals by transportation. Among the minor occurrences of the fortnight is one which appears to have excited no little sensation. Captain Paulet Somerset, an officer of the Guards, the son of Lord Fitzroy Somerset, and related to half the noble families of England, has been sentenced to ten days' imprisonment in the House of Correction. He was driving down a street closed by order of the Magistrates, when he was first warned, and then stopped by a Policeman on duty. Enraged at the interference, he struck the Policeman with his whip several times, and was immediately seized by the mounted patrol. When brought before the Magistrate, he expressed no contrition, but offered to pay any fine to which he might be subjected. Mr. Hardwick, however, considered very justly that the payment of Five pounds, the highest fine in his power to inflict, was no compensation for such an act of unprovoked brutality, and sentenced him to the House of Correction, where he was obliged to put on the prison dress, have his hair cropped short, and, we suppose, amuse his leisure by picking oakum. His prison was constantly thronged by visitors of rank, and the *Leader* is very bitter upon the "Hankysien" of one of the Magistrates who gave the orders for the visitor's admission. We think, on the contrary, that the long line of carriages at the door, will only tend to give the greater prominence to the occurrence, and to impress the more strongly on the crowds of foreigners in London that the aristocratic feeling in England,—the strength of which is sufficiently proved by the fuss made about the man—is not sufficiently powerful to turn aside the course of justice.

The foreign news may be summed up in the fact that the liberal party in Portugal, headed by the Marquis Saldanha, are completely masters of that country. That nobleman is, however, said to be unable to control the storm he has raised, and a numerous and powerful party are clamorous for the dethronement of the Queen, in which case Spain and perhaps England would

interfere. Another attempt has been made by a party in the Southern States of America to invade Cuba, and they had engaged the services of a great number of Hungarian exiles. A stern proclamation by President Fillmore, followed up by rapid arrests, has, however, put a stop to the movement.

The only news of interest to residents in India is the fact that the Indian Marriage Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, a circumstance upon which we shall have something to say next week; and the rumour, apparently authentic, that the Committee of inquiry into Eastern Steam Navigation, intend to recommend the route by the Cape, as the best line of Steam communication with Australia.

**THE CALCUTTA GALLERY OF ART.**—We published last week a letter signed A. B. C. containing an announcement of a Gallery of Art which it was intended to open in Calcutta, in the month of October next. The *Hurkers* in noticing the project, allow that such an undertaking would be of the highest value, but entertain no hope of its success. We desire to assure him that the project is not started by some poor artist anxious to increase the facilities for the study of his Art in Calcutta, but by gentlemen who possess full means for carrying out their design, and that unless some unforeseen event should occur, the Gallery will positively be opened at the time specified. Neither can we think, that when the project is once known to be really in a fair way of accomplishment, the projectors will be left to their own unassisted efforts. Although the peculiar circumstances of Anglo-Indian Society, and the supposed injurious effect of the climate upon pictures, have proved exceedingly unfavourable to the collection of works of real merit, there are still a few scattered over the country, while a rather numerous band of Brothers of the Brush, will, we have no doubt, be happy to lend the aid of their pencils to the undertaking. It would perhaps be invidious to name them, as there must be many with whom we are unacquainted, but a Gallery might well hope for efficient support from such enthusiasts, as the authors of the "Hog hunt," of the beautiful sketches of the meeting between the Governor General and the Maharajah of Casmere, which appeared in the *Illustrated London News*, and from the caricatures of Meerut, who is, we believe, equally eminent in the use of the brush and the graver. A Gallery upon a similar principle has already been opened at the Cape, with the greatest success; and although society in that Colony is not so fluctuating as in India, it possesses perhaps even fewer advantages than those which are within our reach in Calcutta. The Gallery is to be one of sculpture as well as painting, but we have not, that we are aware of, any English sculptures in India, and very few houses boast of the possession of anything of the kind, beyond a few more or less indifferent plaster casts. It is evident, however, from the really remarkable ability already displayed by natives in the art of modelling, that they only require a fair degree of encouragement, and the contemplation of really good examples, to take another step forward, and produce figures in stone with the same accuracy and beauty which they have already display-

ed in day. We think even in the sister art, much may be obtained from native sources, though the only branch of it in which native painters have hitherto shown any real power, has been portrait painting.

The projectors of the undertaking, with a perfect appreciation of the taste of the city of Palaces, have not confined themselves to the exhibition of transient objects however beautiful, but intend to add other attractions in the shape of three concerts a week, after the plan of Julien's concerts, and thus combine almost every description of intellectual amusement. A concert is almost the only public amusement which will induce a resident of the city of Palaces to abandon his drive or his dinner, and the proposal before us promises an unusual gratification for those blessed with musical tastes. We are promised a more detailed prospectus in a short time, and we shall not, therefore, enter into the pecuniary branch of the project, which will, we think be hereafter modified, but at once recommend the scheme to the hearty support of such of our readers as desire to increase the knowledge of art in India, or to gratify their taste and amuse their evenings.

**MR. PRINCE'S SEAT IN PARLIAMENT.** **INDIAN FEELING.**—The last Mail has brought intelligence of Mr. Prinsep's determination to stand again for Harwich, and we naturally suppose that he will immediately be enabled to create a proper qualification within the meaning of the Act I. and II. Victoria Chapter 48. It has been a matter of surprise to many that he should not have advanced in support of his claim, the salary of £300 a year which he receives as one of the Directors of the East India Company, but it is by no means improbable, that as the *exemption* of the fund from which this allowance is paid, is situated in this country, it would be rejected, as a qualification, equally with the annuity he draws from the revenues of India. We should then have the principle established, that no individual connected with India, or indeed with any of the colonies and dependencies of England, could obtain a seat in Parliament, unless he transferred a considerable portion of his property to England. Nothing could be more unwise and impolitic than such an enactment, and it is difficult to suppose that it can have been within the intention of the framers of the last Act regarding the qualification of members. The House of Commons is virtually the centre of that authority and influence, by which the great interests of the numerous colonies and dependencies of Great Britain are regulated. It is the assembly to which they look for the redress of whatever grievances they suffer from those who direct the administration of their affairs either on the spot, or in London. It is this liberty of appeal to Parliament which forms the strongest check on the proceedings of the local authorities abroad, and the central authority in England, and the tardiness of our progress in India is to be ascribed in a considerable measure to our not enjoying the wholesome influence of Parliamentary discussion. In these circumstances, nothing could be more important to the interests of these colonies and dependencies, than to be directly represented in the great Council of the Empire, which holds their destinies in its hands. But as the nature of circumstances forbids any such scheme of direct representation, the next best arrangement which can be made for the benefit of these foreign settlements, is to permit men to take their seats in Parliament for English towns or boroughs,

who have passed many years of their lives, and possess large property in them, and who are thus prepared to represent and support their interests in the House. Under the new law which has expelled Mr. Prinsep, such a scheme of indirect representation would be difficult, and we are, therefore, happy to hear, that it is intended immediately to introduce an Act into the House to amend that of the I. and II. Victoria, 48 and to allow the possession of property in any of the Colonies and dependencies of England, to be considered as valid a qualification for a seat in Parliament as the possession of the same amount of property within the four seas of Britain. We trust, it will be passed without any opposition and without any delay.

**DID SIR WILLIAM MACNAUGHTEN'S ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF THE REBEL CHIEFS AT CABUL?**—In the January number of the *Cultivator Review*, there appeared an article on The Outbreak of Cabul, and its Causes, which we were unable at the time to notice, for want of the documents which were necessary to meet the numerous charges which it contained. The article is written with considerable spirit, by one who appears to be thoroughly acquainted with all the movements and events of that expedition, from first to last. His own personal knowledge of facts might have led us to expect from his pen, a clear, calm, and impartial narrative of a series of transactions, which are as yet but ill understood, because we have not sufficiently recovered from the stunning effect produced by the calumnies in which they closed. But here again we are doomed to disappointment. The sole design of the whole article is to destroy the character of Sir William Macnaughten, by exhibiting him as the most inexcusable, the most unscrupulous, and the most perfidious of public functionaries. To promote this object, the Reviewer has not hesitated to distort facts, and to repudiate all those claims of justice and equity which are considered imperative on every writer who comes forward to instruct the public. The writer has exhibited what Sir Henry Inglis is stated, to have called, in a recent speech, a "singular economy of truth;" we have only just so much of the truth as he considered necessary to give plausibility to the numerous fallacies and calumnies which he has mixed up with it. The only virtue which is conceded to Sir William is that of personal courage after the outbreak had begun, but this concession is evidently made to secure the writer the credit of impartiality, and thus to impart credibility to all the slanders contained in the article. A spirit of personal malignity towards the memory of the Envoy, pervades the whole article to such an extent, as to lead us involuntarily to the conclusion, that the individual, or individuals, European or native, or both, who furnished the writer with the staple of the material, must have been under personal obligations of some magnitude to the Envoy, from which they were anxious to relieve themselves by exhibiting the baseness of the individual who had conferred them. The compiler of the article has evidently taken Carnaccioli's Life of Clive for his model.

Of all the calumnies with which the article is crowded, by far the most damaging to the character of the deceased Envoy, is the charge of having employed all the means in his power to procure the secret assassination of the Chiefs. The writer was fully aware that no charge more odious, and more certain to deprive him of all public sympathy, could be brought forward than this, and he has taken extraordinary pains to give it the appearance of truthfulness and consistency. In this labor of love, he

has been diligently assisted by one, a well educated native, who has not scrupled to avow his having procured the assassination of two Chiefs, and who claimed the price of their blood from the Court of Directors, and who had therefore the strongest personal and pecuniary interest in showing that he acted under the direct and specific orders of Sir W. Macnaughten. It is to the examination of this foul charge and the evidence which supports it, that we now address ourselves, simply adding that the last of the documents we have used in this article only reached us a week ago.

The assertions which are advanced regarding these schemes of assassination can, of course, have been given only on the authority of Mohun Lall, inasmuch as he and he alone was the agent in these alleged transactions. Although the Reviewer has endeavored to create the impression that Sir W. Macnaughten, was "secretly" employed, throughout the insurrection, in attempts to take off the insurgent Chiefs by assassination, the reader must bear in mind that there is only one single overt act brought forward to support this charge. This is the alleged assassination of Meer Musjedee and Abdoolah Khan, which is said to have been planned and paid for on the 12th November. Mohun Lall, it is true, made a proposal to the Envoy to assassinate Amsondolla on the 1st of December, but it is acknowledged to have been indignantly scouted by him. The object of the Reviewer is to destroy the effect of this repudiation, by implicating Sir William Macnaughten in the reputed assassination of Meer Musjedee and Abdoolah. And it is our object to demonstrate that, if they were put to death through Mohun Lall, Sir W. Macnaughten knew nothing whatever about it.

The Reviewer informs us that "Macnaughten, while calling upon the military authorities to quell the revolt, secretly adopted measures of a much more doubtful character which, falling of issue, subsequently exercised a most unfortunate influence, not only upon his own individual fate, but upon that of the whole force of Cabul." Mohun Lall, we are told, was, shortly after the first burst of the rebellion, "in daily communication with both Macnaughten and Capt. J. B. Conolly, who, as Political Assistant and in the confidence of the Envoy, thus opened the correspondence with him on the 5th of November: "Tell the Kussilbaah Chiefs, in fact all the Chiefs of Shah persuasion, to join against the rebels. You can promise Khan Sherin, one lakh of Rupees, on the condition of his killing and seizing the rebels, and arming all the Shiaks and immediately attacking all rebels." "As a postscript, followed," says the Reviewer, "the important addition: 'I promise 10,000 Rs. for the head of each of the rebel Chiefs.' Here it is most important to remark that if such a letter ever was sent, it was written by Capt. Conolly under the direction of the King, and not as Political Assistant and in the confidence of the Envoy. While Sir William Macnaughten was besieged in the cantonments, Capt. Conolly was with the King in the Balla Hissar, and was the channel of communication between Shah Soojah, and his loyal subjects, and Mohun Lall. One of the officers then in the cantonments, who survived the catastrophe, thus writes at the present time to explain this circumstance: "I have no doubt that the late Shah Soojah, who was an Eastern despot, exercised his acknowledged right as such, and did through John Conolly authorize Mohun Lall to procure the death of certain traitors for certain sums of money. John Conolly, as the appointed channel of communication between the

Shah and his allies and his subjects, was called upon to convey this message."

"But it must not be forgotten that there were two simultaneous, yet separate and independent lines of correspondence carried on at this time, the one between Conolly in the Bala Hissar, as the King's representative, and Mohan Lall, and the other between the latter and Sir William Macnaghten in the cantonment, and it is only by artfully singling up the two, and representing Conolly and Sir William as acting in concert in these schemes of assassination,—of which there is not the smallest shadow of evidence—that the Reviewer is enabled to implicate the Envoy in the charge brought against him. We are next told that Mohan Lall was unable for six days to act upon the authority thus given him on the 6th November."

"He was forced to wait a more favourable time, and to watch for such opportunity as the course of events, or the fickle humour of the Chiefs into whose hands fate had thrown him, might offer."

It is also stated that the Envoy, becoming impatient of the state of uncertainty in which the wary silence of the timid Mohan Lall had left him, Conolly, on the 11th November wrote to Mohan Lall: "Why do you not write? What has become of Mir Hyder? Is he doing any thing with Khan Sherin? You never told me that you had written to Naib Humza."

"Exact yourself; write to me often, for the news of the Kossids is not to be depended on. There is a man called Haji Ali, who might be dangerous by a bribe to bring in the heads of some of the rebels; conduct me to him, and I will give him 10,000 Rs. will be given for each head, or even 15,000 Rs." The reader will bear in mind, that this letter was written by Conolly on the 11th November. The Reviewer then proceeds to say, that Mohan Lall, feeling more secure as to his own personal safety—that is, after the receipt of this letter,—now reported to the Envoy the receipt of these instructions; viz. to offer 10, or even 15,000 Rs. for the assassination of each of the rebel Chiefs; he then explained the offer of Conolly to Aga Mahomed Soudah, and Haji Ali, who entertained his overtures; but these men, fearing themselves to undertake the deed, suborned two others, Abdool Aziz and Mahomed Ollah. The Reviewer proceeds to say, that besides these instructions from Conolly of the 11th, Mohan Lall had also been empowered by the Envoy to promise to the extent of five lakhs of Rupees in aid of the Shah's cause. He therefore did not hesitate to advance to Abdool Aziz 9,000 Rs., and to promise that a balance of 12,000 Rs. should be paid as soon as the heads of Meer Musjedee and Abdoola Khan were brought in. The Envoy's letter about the five lakhs, for buying off the Chiefs, which had no connection with Conolly's instructions, had been at that time four days in Mohan Lall's hands, but the Reviewer keeps this out of sight that he may identify Sir William with this assassination scheme, and represent the offer to the assassins as the result of a communication both from Conolly and the Envoy.

"Having thus set on foot this affair, Mohan Lall reported his proceedings to the Envoy, adding with naive simplicity, that 'he could not find out by Lieut. Conolly's notes how the rebels were to be assassinated, but the men now employed promised to go into their houses, and cut off their heads, when they may be without attendants.' " "Macnaghten," says the Reviewer, "nothing startled by the plain terms applied to the transactions by his subordinate agent, replied on the 18th November, 'I have received your letter of this morning's date, and highly approve of all you have done.' The

dates here are all important. Mohan Lall received a letter on the 11th from Conolly, requesting him to inform Haji Ali, that there was a reward of 10 or 15,000 Rs. for the heads of each rebel. On the 12th, he says that he reported the receipt of these instructions to the Envoy; that he then explained Conolly's offer to a friend of Haji Ali, and the two friends accepted the overture; that they then shrunk back from the task, and finally suborned two others; that these two men then went to Mohan Lall, and he at once advanced them 9,000 Rs. and promised them 12,000 more for the heads of two rebels. Now, it appears strange that Mohan Lall, who, after the receipt of the first orders to assassinate on the 6th November, had been obliged, as the Reviewer says, to "wait for six days a more favourable time, and to watch night after night," should on the receipt of the second order on the 11th find this opportunity at once present itself, and should be enabled to carry out the first part of the scheme, and to wait the Reviewer calls "a very delicate and a very hazardous operation," and pay down the money, and write two letters to the Envoy in the brief space of twenty-four hours. But we venture at once to affirm without the fear of contradiction that Mohan Lall did not write to the Envoy to say that Conolly had urged him to hasten the assassinations, and that he did not write to him to ask how the rebels were to be assassinated. We have already stated that Conolly was thus writing to Mohan Lall from the Bala Hissar, Sir William was corresponding with him from the cantonment, and that this double correspondence does not appear to have had any reference to the same subjects. Fortunately for the cause of truth and the vindication of innocence, we have two letters of the Envoy to Mohan Lall of the 11th and 13th November. This is his letter of the 11th.

TO MOOSHKE MURTY LALL.

November 11, 1841.

MY DEAR SIR,—You will observe from the enclosed letters that I have confirmed the promises made by you to the Ghilzie rebels; though, had you known of our successes yesterday, the terms might have been more favorable for us. Humza Khan should come to me as soon as possible, and I will then talk to him about the case of God Ashamed. The money could not be paid until the conditions of the agreement are fulfilled, and we are perfectly certain of the fidelity of Humza and the Chiefs.

The Chiefs should get at once and pay their respects to his Majesty. You should encourage the chief of Ameenollah Khan by all possible means. That scoundrel and Abdoola Khan should be executed if we can catch them.

Yours, &c.

W. H. M.

The Reviewer says that Conolly's letter of the 11th, requesting the assassinations to be expedited, was written because the Envoy had become impatient of the state of uncertainty into which the wary silence of Mohan Lall had thrown him. But the whole of this statement is disproved by the Envoy's own letter of the same date, from which it appears that there was no reliance on the part of Mohan Lall, and no impatience on the part of the Envoy. Mohan Lall was engaged in negotiating with the Ghilzie Chiefs, and regularly reported progress to Sir William. Is it credible that if the Envoy had been urging the assassination of the Chiefs on Mohan Lall, or had even been cognizant of such a scheme, he would have made no allusion to it in this letter?

Mohan Lall is said by the Reviewer to have written on the morning of the 13th to Sir William to tell him that he had advanced 9,000

Rs. and engaged 12,000 Rs. more to the assassins, who had promised to go into the houses of Meer Musjedee and Abdoola Khan, and cut off their heads, and that Sir William wrote in reply to this letter: "I highly approve of all you have done." This is the turning point of the whole transaction, and the entire question of Sir William's complicity in this scheme of assassination turns upon the veracity of the Reviewer, when he affirms that the letter in which this sentence occurs, was written in reply to Mohan Lall's letter, describing the mode in which the two Chiefs were to be taken off. We therefore subjoin the whole letter, of which the Reviewer has given us only a garbled extract.

Catool, November 13, 1841, 9 A. M.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have received your letter of this morning's date, and highly approve of all you have done. Let Golan Humza of Sher, and Abdool-rubeen Khan undertake to come to Jussickar Fort this morning, and Captain Trevor will be ready there to receive them. Captain Trevor will be in the Fort at eight and for some time, to receive overtures from any person; and parties coming in, should send a single messenger before them.

Khan Sherwan Khan is quite right not to leave the Chundamul for a day or two.

Tell Naib Shureef he may safely go as security to the Ghilzies for the payment of the money.

When I see Humza Khan, I will talk to him about the best plan for the Ghilzie Chiefs to wait upon his Majesty.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) W. H. MACNAGHTEN.

P. S.—You are aware that I would give a reward of 10,000 Rs. for the apprehension of Ameenollah Khan, and such of the Dhoranee rebel Chiefs. If you call some of the officers of the Harabesh to me, that I just came in with Mahomed Agwa Khan, and give them encouragement, it would be very desirable. If you could send Mirza Kallal Ali or Mirza Nuzul Ali out with Gholam Hussain and Abdool-rubeen, it would be well.

We think that every impartial reader will concur with us in concluding from the tenor and subject of this letter, that it could not have been written, and was not written in reply to one in which Mohan Lall had explained, how the men's heads were to be cut off, and what was to be paid when they were brought in and delivered. The words "I approve of all you have done" unquestionably refers to the negotiations with the Ghilzies, which Mohan Lall was carrying on under the direction of the Envoy. It is absolutely incredible that Sir William should have merely stated that he would give a reward of 10,000 Rs. for the apprehension of Ameenollah Khan and others, in reply to a letter of Mohan Lall which informed him that a larger sum had been offered for the assassination of the Chiefs. It is impossible to read the two letters of the Envoy we have quoted, without feeling a conviction, that they were written in total ignorance of any of the rewards which are said to have been offered for the murder of the rebel Chiefs, although the Reviewer has endeavored by the most distinguished art to make them support this calumny.

The Reviewer proceeds to state that in consequence of these efforts of Mohan Lall—"Meer Musjedee and Abdoola Khan were soon numbered among the dead. The former died very suddenly; how, Mohan Lall could not tell with certainty; but Mahomed Ollah,"—one of the assassins whom Mohan Lall professes to have employed,—"assured him, that, in fulfillment of the engagement, the wretched man had been suffocated when asleep by the hands of Mahomed Ollah himself. Abdoola Khan fell severely wounded by a shot while standing among his countrymen engaged in fight with the British troops, but whether struck down by a ball from the piece of Abdool Aziz, who claimed the

merit of having shot his victim from behind a wall, or by the fire of the troops, Mohun Lall was not confident. Abdool Aziz, however, assured him that Abdoola Khan would soon die, as poison would complete what the shot had not done. He lingered for a week, and then fulfilled Abdool Aziz's prediction. Those who are interested in the honor of their country, will be happy to learn that the whole of this statement is fabulous; that neither of these men died the victim of British perfidy, and that Mohun Lall had no share in their death. They were reported to have been despatched by the assassins employed by this pure and exemplary character, only when he wanted to cheat the Government out of head money for assassinating them. After they were dead and gone, Mohun Lall determined to make the most of the circumstance, and claimed the merit of having been instrumental in despatching them. The Reviewer, at the time of affixing his own responsibility to this statement, had before him Capt. Eyre's Journal of an Afghan prisoner in which he must have read the following sentence: "A large party of the enemy's cavalry threatened our right flank. This demonstration, however, was repulsed by a well-directed discharge of shrapnel from a H. A. gun, by one of which a Chief of consequence, supposed to be Abdoola Khan, a head-money was actually 'wounded,'" and in a subsequent page, that "the news of Abdoola Khan's wound had spread great confusion among the enemy." Lieut. Col.—then Captain—Lawrence, saw the ball which struck him to the ground. Mohun Lall took advantage of Abdoola's lingering for some days to claim the credit of having had him dispatched by poison. "Meer Musjeedee very suddenly, how, Mohun Lall could not with certainty learn." But he did not die suddenly. He came to Cabul very ill from the Kohistan,—we write on the authority of Col. Lawrence—and he returned thither and died. But what throws irretrievable discredit over the whole of this narrative, is, that the two men who are said to have fallen victims to Mohun Lall's plots, in consequence of the instigation of Sir William Macnaghten and Capt. Cowley, were not the men whom the Envoys considered the most formidable of the rebels, who, in his estimation, were Ameenollah Khan, and Abdoolah Khan, and it was for their apprehension that Sir William was ready to offer a reward of 10,000 Rs. The Reviewer says, that Meer Musjeedee and Abdoola Khan were selected as the first victims, because they had been actively engaged in the insurrection of the 21 November, and because they were known to be the boldest and most influential leaders of the insurgents. But the fact is, that they were selected simply because they happened very opportunely to die, and this to assist Mohun Lall on an occasion for claiming the merit of their assassination, and the money which he pretended to have paid for it.

Mohun Lall states in the pages of the Reviewer, that he advanced 9,000 Rs. and promised a balance of 12,000 Rs., as soon as the heads of the two victims were brought in. But the Reviewer tells us, that Mohun Lall with a Shyluck niece, refused to pay the balance, alleging that the heads had not, according to agreement, been brought in, and that he sent the suborner's (or assassin's) notes, making the demand, and his own reply in refusal, to Sir William, who despatched a confidential messenger in his employ with a message, attested by a reference to a past event known only to the Envoy and Mohun Lall. This verbal message was that to the effect that "if the two assassins had sent the heads to the Envoy, Mohun

Lall would have been ordered to pay the balance, but as they had failed in so doing, they must rest content with the advance they had received for their doubtful services." We may remark, by the way, that while Mohun Lall, as he says, informed the Envoy that he had advanced 9,000 Rs., he informed the Court of Directors that he had paid only 4,000 Rs. in advance. The Envoy, we are told, was forced to deliver this reply by a confidential messenger, because, some native writers of English had gone over to the enemy, and made them acquainted with the contents of several of his intercepted letters. But how does it happen that Mohun Lall was not equally afraid to send this information by letter? His letter might have been intercepted, and the native writers of English might have made the Chiefs acquainted with its contents, and they would certainly have made his head pay the forfeit of the murders. There is but one explanation of this anomaly. The whole narrative from beginning to end is a fiction. Mohun Lall, being unable to produce even a garbled extract from Sir William's correspondence to connect him with the consummation of the assassination plot, Sir William is represented as having sent him a verbal message, to say that he would have cheerfully paid for the heads, if they had been sent to him. Now, let us look at the dates. Abdoola was wounded at Berrynore for the 23d. The Reviewer says, he "lingered for a week," that is, he died on the 20th November. We may suppose, therefore, that the two assassins came the next day, the 30th, and demanded the balance of the reward due to them, and that Mohun Lall, must have sent his letter on that day to Sir William to ask whether the head money should be paid, when Sir William replied, that it should not, because the heads had not been sent to him. The letters sent to the Envoy by Mohun Lall are nearly all extant; and, among the rest, is this letter of the 30th November, but it contains no allusion whatever to the heads of the two Chiefs; it does not mention their names, nor allude to the transaction; but it does propose to Sir William Macnaghten the assassination of Ameenollah. And, on that same day, in which Mohun Lall says, the Envoy sent him a verbal message, to say, that he would cheerfully have paid the assassins, if he had seen the heads, Sir William wrote to Mohun Lall, "I am sorry to find from your letter of last night, that you should have supposed it was ever my object to encourage assassination"—alluding to the proposal for assassinating Ameenollah.—"The rebels are very wicked men, but we must not take unlawful means to destroy them." But, still more, on the day, in which Mohun Lall says, that the Envoy sent him this verbal message about the assassination which had been completed, *had his letter should be intercepted and read by the English writers, who had deserted him, the Envoy was not afraid to commit to paper, and send to him, by the usual messenger, the important fact, that he had that morning had another overture from Zeman Khan's party, offering a safe retreat to Peshawar, and in that letter he gave the names of seven Chiefs who had thus made overtures to him.*

To crown the evidence of Sir William Macnaghten's never having been implicated in this alleged assassination of the two Chiefs, we have an acknowledgment under Mohun Lall's own signature. When he was claiming remuneration for his services of the Court of Directors, he delivered in the following document, which has been copied for us from a paper in his own hand writing.

Advanced to Abdool Aziz, who offered to kill Abdoola Khan, by such means which the Envoy did not approve, therefore the balance 11,000 Rs. was not paid, ... 4,000 Rs.

Thus it appears that while Mohun Lall told the Reviewer that Sir William objected to pay the balance, because he had not seen the heads; he told the Court of Directors that the balance was not paid because the Envoy did not approve of the means that had been used!

We have stated that Mohun Lall proposed to the Envoy on the 30th November to procure the assassination of Ameenollah. This was the first time, in the course of their correspondence, in which the Moonshee had ventured to him at assassination. Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence was present when that letter was received, and he saw the reply written, and he bears ample testimony to the indignation which the Envoy felt, when so disgraceful a proceeding was thus proposed to him. The Envoy immediately wrote to say, as we have stated above, that he was sorry to find from Mohun Lall's letter of last night that he should have supposed it was ever his object to encourage assassination; and that though the rebels were very wicked men, we must not take unlawful means to destroy them. This is the only letter from Sir William in which the subject of assassination is alluded to, and in it he most distinctly repudiates the practice. The disingenuous mode in which the Reviewer endeavors to evade the force of this declaration of Sir William, is worthy of particular attention, as it serves more particularly to prove that his object is not the discovery of the truth, but the ruin of the character of the unfortunate Envoy. "At a later period, (December 1st) Sir W. Macnaghten, awakening to the impolicy, if not the immorality, of such treacherous practices, wrote to Mohun Lall, in reference to a similar proposal to take off Ameenollah, 'I am sorry to find, &c.'" But this, the most important of all the documents which refer to the subject, is given only in a note, while Mohun Lall's fictions are paraded through the text!

In addition to the direct evidence of Sir William Macnaghten's own letter, we have abundant collateral proof of the feeling of abhorrence with which he regarded every idea of assassination. The following quotations are made from the communications of those who were involved in the Cabul calamities which have been placed at our disposal, and are entitled to the highest confidence. Lieut. Col. Lawrence writes thus: "I was Military Secretary to the Envoy and Minister at Cabul; during the Cabul insurrection, I lived in the same house with him, and was seldom far any length of time during the day out of his sight. I have often heard him scornfully repudiate the idea of offering money for the heads of the rebel Chiefs, or to procure their assassination; to the best of my knowledge and belief, I saw all the notes and letters which Sir William wrote during the insurrection, and I affirm that he never wrote to offer money for the destruction of the Chiefs, though he did to spread *ajif*, disunion, among them. To have done so, would have been entirely foreign to his nature and opposed to his principles, which were those of an honorable, chivalrous, and high-minded gentleman. In the year 1840-40, as Afghan asked for an audience of the Envoy, and offered to bring him the head of the Ameer Dost Mahomed, for a lakh of Rupees. Sir William had him indignantly turned out of the House." Lady Sale writes: "with regard to the setting a price on the heads of the Chiefs, or in other



knows, offering money for their assassination. I know as well as any one could do at the time that Sir William never did so. He himself told me, that he had been counselled to do so; he even told me the name of the individual who had instigated that persons were to be found, who for a consideration would put Akbar Khan and others out of the way. But he invariably scouted the idea, and took pains to impress on the minds of the Afghans, that it was repugnant to the honour, moral, and chivalric feelings of the British nation to incite any one to murder even an enemy. I have no affection for the Afghans, but I scorn to slander any one, and will not, therefore, mention the Chief, who Sir William told me was ready to lend himself to the assassination of his friends." The Honourable Mr. Erskine, now at Kalmukool, read out all the papers on this subject, and asserts that "most assuredly there was not a particle of evidence to sustain the charge brought against the Envoy. Among all his papers, there was no letter of Mohun Lall's either proposing assassination, or insinuating such a measure, except the one in reply to which Sir William on the 1st of December, reprehended the very idea of such a course." Sir Henry Lawrence states, that "he had Sir William Macnaghten's letter book for weeks in his possession, and that it shows not a line to the effect of his having written either to Conolly or Mohun Lall to encourage assassination, but it does contain the letter to Mohun Lall, stating that he had no such intention." In 1846 or '47, Sir Henry showed all the letters on this subject which could be procured, to Lord Hardinge, who expressed himself "quite satisfied that there was not a shadow of reproach on the Envoy's character."

It only remains to notice the charge of having sanctioned the proposal made by Akbar Khan's cousin to Sir William Macnaghten on the fatal evening of the 22d of December to bring in the head of Ameenollah for a lakh of Rupees. Captain Skinner, who was present at the conference, stated, that "from this Sir William shrunk with abhorrence, declaring that it was neither his custom, nor that of his country to give a price for blood. The mode in which the Reviewer, notwithstanding this declaration, endeavors to implicate Sir William in the guilt of assassination, affords an admirable specimen of the spirit in which the whole article is written. He insinuates that Sir William "failed to observe that Mahomed Sudek's language was an ominous echo of Conolly's early instructions to Mohun Lall,"—of which the Envoy was throughout the insurrection entirely ignorant.—He then says that though the Envoy disclaimed, in the presence of the audience, any willingness to give a price for blood, he did not disclaim the capture of Ameenollah by treachery. But "the disavowal was too slight to weigh with men conversant with the meanness and servility evinced by the Envoy in the case of Abdoolla Khan and Meer Muzjeed, and who judged of his sincerity by the eager readiness, with which he was captivated by an offer too specious to have imposed upon any man of sound thought and principle, and which involved the perditional sacrifices of one of their own members. He, too, however shaken by what was known of Mohun Lall's proceedings, acting with the cognizance of Conolly and Macnaghten, the British character for integrity and good faith stood high enough to command some respect from the representatives of the Anglo-Indian Government. But the deliberate faithlessness which led the Envoy to accept Mahomed Akbar's proposal, sealed his doom. The worst suspicions of the confederate Chiefs and their co-partisan leader were confirmed; and they treated, as no dependence after such proof could

be placed on the most solemn and formal engagements, to ensure Macnaghten in the net he was spreading for another, and to take vengeance upon him and the starving disorganised force, for the insults and injuries which an injudicious, selfish, and ambitious policy had heaped upon Afghanistan."

Now, as the whole story of the assassination of Meer Muzjeed and Abdoolla Khan is a pure fiction, which Mohun Lall endeavored to impose on the Court of Directors to secure the sum of 4000 Rs. which he said he had advanced for that purpose, the whole of the superstructure which the Reviewer has built on it, falls at once to the ground. Neither Sir William nor the confederate Chiefs knew anything whatever of the matter, and consequently the latter were not in the slightest degree influenced, as the Reviewer represents, by Sir William's treachery. Equally fallacious is the remark that the deliberate faithlessness of the Envoy led to his doom; the whole of this representation has no more truth in it than the Arabian nights' entertainments. Not one of the chiefs, except Akbar Khan, had any hand whatever in Sir William's assassination, and with him it was the impulse of the moment, and not an act of deliberation. Akbar Khan had sent his cousin, Mahomed Sudek, to Sir William to propose the wild scheme of seizing Ameenollah and the rest of the Khans with his aid and that of the Eastern Ghilziees, while Akbar Khan was to have in return thirty lakhs of Rupees, and the English were to be permitted to remain in the country eight months longer, and Shah Sojah was to continue King with Akbar Khan as his vizier. "To this extraordinary and wild proposal, says the Reviewer, (Eyre p. 168) Sir William gave ear with an eagerness which nothing can account for, but the supposition, confirmed by many other circumstances, that his strong mind had been harassed, till it had, in some degree, lost its equilibrium. The Reviewer has the temerity to allude to that the Chiefs were resolved to ensnare Macnaghten in the net he was spreading for another, and to take vengeance on him, &c. The Reviewer perfectly knew that Sir William was spreading no net for any body, that it was Akbar Khan who spread the net in which the unfortunate Envoy was entangled and slain. It was he who made these proposals, simply in the hope that they might induce Sir William to leave the cantonment, and meet him at the conference, where he intended to seize him. Major Colin Troop writes thus in a letter now before us:

"Akbar Khan never would allow Macnaghten's name to be mentioned before him but in terms of the greatest respect, and was in private, both to poor Pottinger and myself, over and over again regretted the deed, and stated that it never was promediated; so far the contrary, that having been accused by Ameenollah's party of being friendly to, and intriguing with the English, to disarm suspicion, he in open defiance volunteered, if he was allowed time, to bring Macnaghten as a prisoner here Ameenollah's house within eight days. This I at once agreed to, it was then that he planned the treacherous conference with Sir William, but, finding after some delay, that he was not likely to accomplish his object, and fearing to meet his party if he failed in his basest adventure, and hearing a cry that our Troops were marching out of the cantonment, to where he and Sir William were sitting, he, in a moment of desperation, out with his pistol and shot Sir William; but he always loudly declared that on the morning of the conference when he came out to meet Sir William, he never for one moment contemplated doing him any harm whatever. I have all this written down, and, as, if necessary, take my oath to what I have written, as coming from the mouth of Akbar Khan himself, and you are most welcome to make what use of it you please in defence of the character of one of the brightest ornaments of our country ever did, or ever will produce."

We have only one further remark to offer in this vindication of Sir W. Macnaghten's character. The Reviewer has stated that the British character for integrity and good faith, stood high enough to command some respect for the representative of the Anglo-Indian Government, however shaken by what was known of Mohun Lall's proceedings, acting with the cognizance of Conolly and Macnaghten; but the deliberate faithlessness which led the Envoy to accept Mahomed Akbar's proposal, sealed his doom. But, Mohun Lall was living, not in the cantonments, or in the Balla Hissar, but in the town of Cabul, and it was completely the power of the Chiefs. It is credible, that if they had been so cognizant, as the Reviewer represents, of Mohun Lall's being employed by the Envoy in a series of attempts to assassinate them, and of his having already procured the death of two of their number, they would not at once have reached all those of danger, by putting this treacherous plotter to death, which they might have done with perfect ease? But let that anomaly pass. We have the most abundant evidence that Sir William Macnaghten's character for integrity and good faith, always stood equally high among the Afghans, and that when their Chiefs were triumphant, and bitterly reproached the British prisoners for the wrongs their nation had inflicted on Afghanistan, the charge of encouraging assassination was never whispered for a moment. Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence states: "During our lengthened imprisonment, I unhesitatingly affirm that not one of the prisoners ever heard Mahomed Akbar, or any of the Chiefs, accuse Sir William of bribing men to assassinate them, and it is not likely they would have been silent, if they had so heavy a charge to bring forward. On the contrary, I, as well as others, have heard both Mahomed Akbar Khan, and other Chiefs, express deep regret at the Envoy's untimely death, and much admiration of his character. Ameenollah Khan, when I was his prisoner, told me that Sir W. Macnaghten had offered a lakh of Rupees for his head. Prisoner though I was, I denounced it in open durbar as an infamous lie, and never heard any more about it." Brigadier Colin Mackenzie writes: "If Sir William had ever instructed Mohun Lall or any other person to employ assassins for the removal of our treacherous and intractable enemies, it would have been well known to the Afghans themselves, and they would not have failed to urge so plausible a ground of complaint against us, while we were captives in their hands, which they never did, although they constantly reproached us with every act of supposed injustice on the part of Government, and with the private vices and improprieties of individuals." Captain W. Anderson, one of the prisoners writes: "I never heard any Afghan accuse Sir W. Macnaghten of any acts for which any friend of his, or any Englishman, need feel ashamed. On the contrary, I always heard him spoken of with great respect, and frequently with admiration." Captain Warburton states: "I went into Cabul to the Nawab's on the 25th, I think, of November 1841. I remained in his house till we were forced out of it on the 12th of April following. During that time, no one was prevented seeing us. Our party consisted of J. Conolly, Ayer, Walsh, Webb, Drummond and myself (besides Houghton and Campbell, who joined us afterwards.) We had an opportunity of seeing and conversing with most of the Chiefs at Cabul, who remained after Akbar Khan had left. None of these people ever concealed their opinions regarding the acts of our Government, or people. Ameenollah Khan, in particular, spoke at times very strongly,

























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**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
The Government of Bombay having appointed the 25th of the ensuing month of July for the departure of the Steamship therefrom, with a Mail for Suva. Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by the said ship, will be Saturday, the 12th Proximo, and that the first of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 11th

J. B. BURLTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Post Office, the 19th June, 1851.

THE subjoined copy of a Letter No. 12,827, dated 28th April last, from the Secretary to Her Majesty's General Post Office, London, is published for general infor-

J. R. BURLTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Calcutta, Genl. Post Office, 30th June, 1851.  
No. 12,827.

*Colonial.* *General Post Office, 26th April, 1881.*  
 Sir,—Referring to your Letter of the 14th ultimo, on the subject of the New Postal Convention between Great Britain and the United States, I beg to acquaint you, that Letters arriving in this country from India, addressed to the United States, can be sent forward to their destination, leaving the British postage chargeable for their conveyance, to be paid by the persons to whom they are addressed.

The Post Master General, Calcutta.

J. R. BURLTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge

NOTICE is hereby given for general information, that the Mails for Penang, Singapore, and Hong-Kong by transmission per Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steamer *Aviz* will be closed at this office on Saturday, the 13th Instant.

J. R. BURLTON BENNETT.  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge  
Calcutta, Genl. Post Office, the 7th July, 1861.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donation :—  
From Major J. Hannington, Co.'s Ba. 30, to Serampore College.

**THE CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITY FUND.**—Since our last article on this subject we have received a copy of "Extracts from the Records of the Civil Service Annuity Fund on the question of Refunds," published, we suppose, by the Managers. In this collection, a dispatch from the Honourable the Court of Directors dated the 4th of February, 1860, is for the first time made public, in which they state that "the Bengal Civil Service refused to adopt the principle of refunding by passing a rule to the contrary, and when the Government proposed that the Government should contribute two-thirds of the value of the annuity, appraised to the Court to obtain a return of the excess, and they stated in reply that "they would not interfere in any way to relieve them from the operation of the Rules."

Here the Court has fallen into singular and most egregious error, as the following brief narrative of transactions connected with the Fund will show at a glance. The system of book-keeping was so arranged that the Fund, which was one of the fundamental principles of the Fund, was recognized and acted upon down to the year 1842, and Twenty-ninth August, 1842, when the late Mr. H. C. Brown, who was retired between 1834-35 and 1841-42, received back in sums varying from \$1,923.28 to 1864.38, an aggregate amount of \$1,923.28 to 1864.38. Two of the present Members of the Court of Directors shared in this refund. The late Mr. H. C. Brown, Esq. to the extent of \$10,770 and M. T. H. Crispin, Esq. to the extent of \$1,610. In July 1839, two additional Letters called Articles of the Fund were issued, and the sale of pictures and the sale of vesting, which

by retaining of the value of annuities anywhere beyond the 1st of May until at half premium, became available for granting a reduced number of annuities at quarter premium, with a refund of excess subscriptions. At the same time it was provided, that a majority of the subscribers in India should be at liberty to surrender the operation of these quarter premium rules." On the 7th March, 1840, a notice was issued to the subscribers to attend a meeting in which it was to be proposed that "whereas there has been a large accumulation of funds in the hands of the Government, and whereas the relations with interest, is directly opposed to the objects of the institution by inducing qualified subscribers to postpone the period of retirement, and by reducing very materially the number of annuities available," it be Resolved that the operation of the above Rules, Articles 36 and 38 shall cease from the 1st of May, 1840. Before this Resolution could reach England, the Court had written out to say that "in order to afford due time for the examination of the statements of the condition of the Fund, they had determined to suspend the continuation of the operation of the said Rules; and, accordingly, the quarter premium subscriptions, with refund—until the 30th April, 1842. On the receipt of this despatch, a second meeting of subscribers was held on the 14th July 1840, to consider the course proper to be taken under these orders, when it was resolved that the grant of annuities in the present and following season, under the Rules 35 and 36; viz: upon completion of payment of one quarter value with refund of excess subscriptions, be discontinued. On the 12th February, 1841, the managers wrote to Government apparently in reference to the first meeting of April, 1840, and stated as the reason for having suspended the operation of the said Rules, "that the refund, the Government would tend to retard retirement and promotion in the service, by making the Fund a source of profit on accumulated subscriptions and interest." This was transmitted to the Court, and the question of discontinuing the system of refund then in force was thus distinctly brought before them. In their reply of the 1st September, they say: "We respect to refund of subscriptions, we are disposed to meet the views of the majority of the Subscribers to the extent of confining refund to the exchequer which may have been paid beyond the half value of the annuity, and to arrange for the refund in accordance with the Regulations of the Fund." The certainty ought to be considered final and acquiescent to the question of refunds. The Subscribers of the Fund asked the Court's permission to discontinue both descriptions of refunds; the refund of excess subscriptions beyond the quarter value of the annuity,—which was an innovation of the year 1836,—and also the refund of the excess beyond the half refund which had been allowed on the strength of the original Rules. The Court agree to the first proposal, but negative the second, by determining that to continue the return of the excess subscriptions which may be paid beyond the half value "because it was in accordance with the Regulations of the Institution." On the receipt of this despatch, a meeting of the Subscribers was held, when the following Rule "framed in obedience to the instructions of the Home Authorities," was submitted to the favorable consideration

deration and votes of the subscribers." "It is hereby further provided, that in the event of the balance of the subscription account of any subscriber, to whom an annuity shall have been reserved or may be granted under the foregoing clause, amounting at the period of his payment to a sum exceeding the balance above the half value shall be refunded to him out of the proportionate sum which shall have been reserved to his annuity as above. And in case of such excess of balance amounting to more than the proportionate sum reserved to the annuity, the difference shall be found out out of the general funds of the Institution."

This Resolution is called the second Clause of Rule 36, and the voters in favor of it were 61, and against it 58, but as one of the Rules of the Fund requires a majority of 2 of the voters on the subject to pass such a Rule, it was lost. On hearing of the result of these votes, the Court of Directors on the 31st of August, 1842, said "on the second Clause, it is unnecessary to make any remark as the requisite majority of votes was not recorded in its favor." But in their despatch of February last year, they say, "The Bengal Council refused to assent to the third principle of refunding by passing a rule to the contrary;" whereupon a few members of the Service who had contributed more than half the value appealed to us for a refund of it, and we replied that we could not relieve them from the operation of the Rules. But the Bengal Civil Service did *not* pass a rule against the adoption of the principle of refunding; consequently, there is no rule whatever against it; and the question of refund must stand on the original and fundamental principle of the Fund, and upon its invariable practice, which authority they were never permitted to shake. The authority they were ever discontinued, except that of the Managers, who refused to pay them, the extracts from the Correspondence do not inform us. This is certainly the strangest anomaly we have seen for a long time. The original principle of the Fund was to return excess subscriptions; this principle was distinctly acknowledged by the Court eighteen years after the Fund had been in operation; it had been acted on till 1842. In that year, by an act of ridiculous supererogation, a meeting was convened to pass a rule confirming this original principle, and the Managers took upon themselves to refuse to refund any further excess subscription, and those who were aggrieved, appealed to the Court, and the Court under the erroneous impression that the Civil Service had passed a rule against the return of excess subscriptions, rejected the appeal. We regret to say that throughout the whole of these proceedings, the Court appear to have acted with a degree of weakness, of which we can find no analogy in their general proceedings, and which can be accounted for only by the indifference they felt to the whole question of the Fund. But this weakness has made our situation and that of a large number of their servants of property which is their just due.

The origin of all these errors, is to be traced to the redundant and injudicious attempt made at the meeting in January 1842, to obtain the

sanction of the Civil Service to a rule for refunding excess subscriptions, when no such rule was necessary. This system of refunds, as we have stated, was one of the original principles of the Fund, and had so been declared by the Court who established the Fund, and it had been invariably set on down to that time. It did not require the confirmation of the Service, and it could require no strength from any such recognition. Neither could the votes of even three-fourths of the Service, if adverse to such a rule, have been in any degree valid to set aside the regulation, as regarded the interests of those who originally joined the Fund, in dependence on the integrity of this principle. They had become members of the Fund when they might have refused to do so, upon the solemn engagement that "every annuitant should pay half the value of his annuity and no more." Consequently, the annuity who had paid more received a refund of excess, down to the year 1842. At length, two junior members of the Service, began to feel "a conviction that the system of refunds would tend to retard retirement and promotion in the Service," that is, that it was repugnant to their own interests, and they made an effort to abolish the system. But upon what principle of justice or equity could the juniors of the service be considered competent to deprive the senior members of this property to which they were unquestionably entitled by the original regulation of the Institution, and transfer it to the general Fund, for their own peculiar benefit? Is the sacred question of right to be thus rendered subservient to a mere question of interest and convenience? The proposal to refund was opposed, it is true, only by a minority, but even if it had been negated by an overwhelming majority, this would not even in the smallest degree have affected the indefeasible claims of the original subscribers, to the fulfillment of the conditions on which they entered the Fund. But the most singular feature in these transactions is the conduct of the Court of Directors. After having in 1841 refused to sanction the discontinuance of refunds, because the return of excess subscriptions was one of the original Regulations of the Fund, in 1850 they acquiesce in the abolition of this Regulation, by the Civil Service, and thus allow their servants to do that which they had too great a sense of justice to do themselves, and they acquiesce in it with the full knowledge that the effect of the supposed abolition, was to impoverish the older servants for the benefit of the juniors. On this occasion it was unquestionably the duty of the Court to have stood forward boldly, and stated that as the refund was one of the original Regulations of the Fund, it was not competent for the members of the Service, at any subsequent period, to pass any rule to abolish it, and thus appropriate to their own interests the seven lakhs which were due to the original members. The same acquiescence of the Court in this act of injustice is one of the most remarkable instances of culpable supineness which the records of the India House can furnish. But, it has been done under an erroneous impression; and the Court can at once grant redress, not only without any loss of honour, but to the great increase of their reputation for justice. If they should not see fit to do so, the case should at once be submitted to the decision of a Court of law. There cannot be the slightest doubt that the judgment of the Court would be in favour of the rights of the members who voluntarily joined the fund in 1824 on certain understood conditions, which it is utterly incompetent for any other members of the Service to abrogate. We recom-

mend to the perusal of the reader, as to our late correspondent "Regalistic"

**THE PROGRESS OF STEAM COMMERCE** is now so rapid, that scarcely a month without furnishing us with new and interesting notices of the improvement, which are made in it. The reader may remember that some little time ago, the Americans were so inferior to us in the matter of sailing steamers, as they were superior in their establishment of river steamers. Brother Jonathan was at length roused, and determined to apply with his wonted energy to the construction of an ocean steam navy, and it is reported to have vowed that in ten years he would gain the start of the old country; and well and truly has he kept his promise. The last mail brings us intelligence that the *Pacific*, an American Steamer, has accomplished the voyage from Liverpool to America in *nine days and twenty hours*, the distance between 8008 miles, which is on an average of Thirteen miles an hour. This is the most rapid progress which has ever been achieved, and it may be considered as forming a new era in Steam communication. The speed which has thus been attained, must very shortly become the standard by which all other sea going steamers will be compared, and the effect must eventually be to bring all the vessels of the old Companies in England up to the same ratio. It cannot fail to diffuse a fresh spirit of emulation throughout the steam Companies in Europe, and to bring the various countries in the world still nearer to each other.

The P. and O. Company, our earliest friends in India, and till lately, the general favorites of the community, appear to have formed the noble resolution of regaining all the ground they have been losing in public estimation. The general complaint against them was that they had ceased to act with a vigor proportionate to their privileges and their resources; and that their movements were retrogressive rather than progressive. They were therefore threatened with a sharp competition. They have now determined to put forth their full strength, and to anticipate the movements of their rivals by pre-occupying every route. We have had reason lately to commend their public spirit in establishing a new line to China; we are now informed, that the Company have made arrangements for putting on a second steamer every alternate month, between Calcutta and Suez, beginning with the month of August next, and also to establish a communication between Bombay and Aden, to meet the alternate vessel from Calcutta. At the same time they have arranged to start a second vessel from Southampton on the 1st of every alternate month. This is, we trust, the precursor of a regular double communication from Calcutta to England every month, and is intended eventually to supplant the Government Steam packets between Bombay to Suez. There is a rumour that the Company lost some £5,000 by the last voyage of the *Preserver*, which was put on the line as an additional vessel from Calcutta in April. Even if such a loss has been sustained, it will be more than compensated by the popularity which they will acquire by this revived spirit of enterprise, as the period of the new contraband approaches; and they must be fully aware of the fact that nothing is so likely to secure them a continuance of their present privileges, as their being able to show that they are deserving of them.

The Trieste steamers have also been going ahead. The number of passengers which have

on conveyed within the last three months one *Albatross* to Trieste, by the vessels of the *Austrian Lloyd*, as chronicled in the paper, has struck every one with astonishment. It has created a strong impression that whenever the passage money from the ports in India to Suez, can be reduced to the same proportion as that which is now charged from Alexandria to Trieste, this will become a most favorite route, and will probably be preferred by half the Indian passengers. That the Company has been able to keep its head above water, amidst the most appalling difficulties and discouragements, reflects the highest credit on its very spirited conductors, and we most sincerely wish them every success in their own line. For some months back, Indian news has been received in London, by the Trieste route, earlier than by that of Marseilles, and we are happy to state that the Austrian Government announced on the 10th of May last that the Mails on the whole line of Rail from Trieste to the North of Germany, England, France, and Holland would be accelerated after the 15th of May as follows:—

To London, ... ..	48 hours
Amsterdam, ... ..	49 "
Paris, ... ..	30 "
Hanover, ... ..	32 "
Bremen, ... ..	24 "

While we have these gratifying tokens of progression in every direction, the *Humble Company's* Indian Steam Navy exhibits those signs of decadence which are always the forerunner of dissolution. That Navy, according to the acknowledgment of the Court, is maintained almost exclusively as a packet service. It has ten or eleven steam vessels, some of which are of superior size and great power. Yet utterly inefficient has this steam *flotte* become, a totally unequal is it to the performance of the duties, though light, which are entrusted to it, that the last Mail was actually conveyed from Aden to Bombay by a Collier, and was sixteen days in reaching the port. The Indian Navy's sailing is its own doom. The intelligence of this event will, in all probability, be sent to the Committee on Steam Navigation. The East is yet sitting, and he embolden their report to the House, and it will leave the Court of Directors without an excuse for continuing to maintain an establishment, the value and efficiency of which are in an inverse ratio to its cost.

**STATE OF THE POLICE.**—We have much pleasure in publishing two letters, which are received on the state of the Police, in the suburban districts. One of them is from a great man of high and honorable standing in society, Capt. Lawford, of the Royal Navy, who was induced to embark a large portion of capital in that unfortunate concern, the *Ben Indigo Company*, which was brought to verge of insolvency by the most profligate practices. Instead of yielding to calamity, he determined at once to come out to this country, and to take the management of the Company in hand, in the hope of being able to retrieve its affairs, and save his own property, and thus his co-shares from destruction. He has been residing for some time in the interior of the country, and has thus obtained a practical and experimental knowledge of the state of the Police, and his independent and impartial remarks are, therefore, of the highest value, to the cause we have undertaken to advocate—the immediate reform of our Police arrangements. We recommend it to the perusal of all who feel an interest in this important subject.

The second letter is from the pen of our valued Correspondent, an "Ab-Magistrate" and he goes to the very root of the disease, when he attributes the signal failure of our police system to the defects of the Chowkedare establishment. If the Government had not down deliberately to derive the most effectual means of rendering property and life insecure, it could not have hit upon a system better adapted to produce this effect, than that which left the entire rural police in the hands of 180,000 irregularly paid, ill paid men, who were in no way whatever connected with the regular police establishment of the state. Without a thorough and radical reform of the whole system, and an entire re-creating of all its parts, our police will continue to be the great opprobrium of our Government. There is an indistinct rumour that Government is about to pass a law, authorizing the Magistrates to enforce the pay of the Chowkedares. But before any such law can become effective, it is necessary to ascertain in what mode the Chowkedares are now paid in the various districts in the lower provinces. The mode of payment differs in different localities, and we require a Commission to make local enquiries, and bring the whole subject before Government with a view to a uniform, radical, and comprehensive re-organization. Simply to order the Magistrate to enforce payment of the Chowkedare's dues, when the actual mode of payment in each village is ascertained, might give rise to much agitation and confusion, and would of itself do little to improve the Police. The Chowkedares should unquestionably be paid by the Magistrate, but their dues should be collected by the Collector of the district. But Government must take up the whole question, and legislate like statesmen, instead of being content with a little bit of reform. Our correspondent has shown that the police in England was not much better, ten or fifteen years ago, though it is now one of the most efficient in the world. We cannot expect, with the materials we have to work with, to rival its excellence, but surely the 40,000, a year paid to our Legislative Council in Calcutta ought to be sufficient to give us something like an approximation to its vigor and efficiency.

But while this enquiry is proceeding, and the new system of Police is in the crucible, we require the most energetic measures to be adopted, to put down the gang robberies which "have increased, are increasing, and ought to be diminished." No property is safe in the suburban districts. We must capture and transport the chiefs of the gangs, who congregate chiefly in Calcutta, where they plan their expeditions into the country. The Magistrate in the interior must be armed with extraordinary powers to meet this new exigency, and they must be vigorously supported by the Metropolitan police, the Sessions Judges, and the British Nizamut. Whiff these gangs are broken up, and the dacoits find the country too hot for them, the people will begin to breathe freely, and we shall see a return of peace and security. We want an energetic twelvemonth's campaign against these determined and professional villains.

**MOVEMENT IN THE HINDOO COMMUNITY AGAINST THE LEX LOCI.**—The Hindoo Intelligence of the 30th of June informs us, that the "Memorial" of the Hindoos against the Act for establishing Liberty of Conscience, is at length ready to be transmitted to England. The Act was passed on the 30th of March last year. The Hindoo community were allowed to elapse before the Bill was appointed to obtain a re-

peal of it, and a whole twelvemonth was wasted in drawing up the Memorial, and in circulating signatures to it. In England it is naturally be considered as indicating a real interest the Hindoos in Calcutta. Men who really feel that they are aggrieved are never thus dilatory in the passing of the Memorial. It is said to have nearly Five Thousand signatures attached to it; yet a Memorial representing the grievances of the Madras Native community obtained more than a Hundred Thousand signatures, in half the time which has been found necessary for obtaining the names of one-twentieth the number, in a town with double the population. Nothing could, we believe, have been easier than to have obtained Fifty thousand signatures to this petition, or to any other which the Baboos of Calcutta chose to encourage, in the shortest space of time. Such a Memorial, therefore, for the removal of a grievance which was said "so nearly, so closely, so vitally to affect the most sacred and most valued rights of the Hindoos," with only five thousand signatures to it, from the Metropolis of British India, can be considered in no other light than as a miserable failure.

Since this Memorial was originally drawn up, events have occurred in the Hindoo community from whom it emanates, which cannot fail to influence the minds of those to whom it is addressed in England. The measure against which it is directed,—that of allowing a convert to inherit his ancestral property—is said to be totally repugnant to the principles of Hindooism, and to the practice which has been in vogue from time immemorial. It is said to strike at the root of one of the most important religious institutions of the country. But, if there be any one institution of the Hindoo creed, more ancient, more sacred, and more vital than another, it is that of Caste. It has always been considered as the great bulwark of Hindooism, and the strength of the whole system has been supposed to consist in the rule, by which he who once forfeited his caste, could never, under any circumstances, be restored to its honors and privileges, but became an outcast for life. It was the impossibility of an "apostate's" return to the bosom of Hindoo society, when he had once crossed the rubicon, which retained so many under the standard of the national creed. But a meeting has been held in Calcutta, within the last few days, at which the same native gentleman who is the Chairman of the Committee appointed to obtain the repeal of the Lex Loc, himself proposed to break down this great bulwark of the Hindoo religion, and to submit to the distinctions of caste, all those who had forfeited it by a profession of Christianity, on the performance of a slight penance. This proposal, coming from such a quarter, and brought forward under the auspices of so large a number of the most influential natives in Calcutta, must seriously damage the Memorial. If the Hindoos themselves are prepared, for their own convenience, to dispense with the safeguards which have hitherto protected the national creed, surely the British Government must be at liberty to remove one of them, when it is found to be utterly incompatible with the rights of conscience, and the principles of religious liberty.

**MIDNAPUR.**—Mr. H. V. Hayley's appointment to the Collectorate of Midnapore, seems to have infused a new life into that rather dull station, particularly with respect to educational improvement. Within three months of his arrival, the Collector set on foot a plan for improving the Vernacular Schools by the intro-

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duction of new works in the vernacular, and by opening a Reading-room, where works and newspapers in English and Bengali might be obtained at a small cost. We are happy to learn, that upwards of 1,000 Rs. have already been subscribed towards the undertaking, and a piece of land granted by Mr. Terry, a resident in Midnapore. Four thousand rupees more are required to complete the project, and there appears to be every probability that it will be collected, as the Zemindars of the place are strongly disposed to support the scheme. To complete these plans of enlightenment, we have before us the first number of the *Midnapore and Hidgees Guardian*, a little journal, or periodical,—for we have no information either as to its price, or object, or time of publication,—intended apparently to convey useful information, as distinguished from news. It contains articles on education and conscientiousness, and a recipe for resuscitating a drowned person, adapted, we fear, to the meridian of England rather than of Midnapore. We wish it every success.

**AFRICAN MISSIONS.**—A contributor of the *Coleridge Christian Observer* in the last number, furnishes some important observations on the state and prospects of the African Missions, some of which, we think, will be new and interesting to the majority of our readers. We have only space to give the most salient facts. The new station of Mombasa in East Africa, selected by the Rev. Dr. Knapp, after various misfortunes, and ineffectual struggles to bring the Gospel before the wild Galla tribes of Eastern Africa, has been found admirably adapted for the prosecution of Missionary enterprise. The excessive unhealthiness of the coasts of Africa, has hitherto almost deterred even Missionaries, but an Alpine range has been discovered near Mombasa, which affords every facility for the Missionaries to recruit their exhausted health in a colder climate. Moreover, it has been found, after a careful consideration of the different languages, that all the dialects of Africa, south of the equator, are of the same family, and so nearly allied that the knowledge of one greatly facilitates the acquisition of another. So close is the resemblance, indeed, that it is confidently stated, that one Missionary can easily make himself understood over the whole breadth of the continent. The Missionary mentioned above, Dr. Knapp, with the dogged perseverance and patient research of a true German, has reduced six of these languages to writing, and published them in England. The chiefs of the interior, to the south of Mombasa, have visited the Missionaries, and promised them every protection, while the Imam of Muscat who is now ruler of the greater portion of the coast, has issued a formal firman commanding all his servants to assist Dr. Knapp. Two or three converts have already been made, one of them, a learned Mahomedan Cadi of his village, and the Missionaries have been everywhere treated with attention and respect.

Another portion of the paper speaks of the rapidly decreasing importance of the slave trade, and although we think the writer far too sanguine in his hopes of its speedy suppression, the facts he gives, are gratifying in the extreme. There is now no place north of the equator, except the Bight of Benin, where the export traffic in slaves exists, and in twenty-six places, where it was actively carried on ten years ago, it has disappeared. Even the Portuguese have begun to lend their assistance to the British cruisers in suppressing the traffic, and scarcely one-fifth of the usual number of slaves were

taken to Brazil in 1850. The slave trade seems in a fair way of being put a stop to.

**REPORT OF THE REVENUE BOARDS OF THE LOWER, AND OF THE NORTH WEST PROVINCES.**—We have for some time had in our possession, a copy of the last Report of the Sudder Board of Revenue in the Lower Provinces—that for 1848-49—but having incidentally heard that the Lieut. Governor of the North West Provinces had directed the Sudder Board of Agra to prepare and publish a similar Report, we determined to defer our notice of the subject, until we had an opportunity of comparing the information afforded by both these documents. The Agra Report has now reached us, and we give below a brief analysis of its contents, as well as of the details furnished by our own Board. After a careful examination of these Reports, we are impressed with the conviction that both Boards might with advantage take a leaf out of each other's book, in as much as the up-country Report is fuller and more satisfactory in some matters, while in others that of the Calcutta Board has the pre-eminence. If the deficiencies in each were thus supplied, we should possess a most complete view of the financial statistics of the Gangetic Valley.

The entire demand of land revenue in the Lower Provinces in the year 1848-49 was—excluding the hundreds in this and all the statements in this article— $\text{Rs. } 545,96,000$  Rs., and the apparent amount of arrears,  $\text{Rs. } 32,99,000$  Rs., but the demand for the year that for April which was not legally due, and that for March which could not be enforced by process of law within the year. The statements for these two months, will therefore, under the present system of accounts, always be represented in the column of arrears. In order to show the amount which is bona fide in arrears, it is necessary to add to the collections on account of the year those which were received on account of the arrears of the previous year. Upon this principle, we find that the collections during the year amounted to  $\text{Rs. } 54,10,000$ ; while the demand for the year was  $\text{Rs. } 545,96,000$ , leaving a deficiency of only four lakhs of Rupees, which is less than one per cent., and a most satisfactory result.

Turning now to the Report of the North West Provinces, we learn that the demand in the year 1848 was  $\text{Rs. } 421,73,000$ , and the collections,  $\text{Rs. } 421,63,000$ , leaving unrealised arrears to the extent of  $\text{Rs. } 8,07,000$  which is considerably in excess of the proportion of arrears in the Lower Provinces. This is to be accounted for by the deficiency of rain in the latter year, which was only 34.95 inches, to 31.78 in the previous year. In that year of abundant rain, 1847-48, the unpaid balance was only  $\text{Rs. } 4,36,000$ . Taking the average of the three years, the arrears amount to a little more than six lakhs annually. We have therefore, the gratifying fact, that in the Gangetic Valley, the demand for the revenue derived from land was Seven Millions and three quarters sterling for the year, and the collections, which remained unpaid at the close of it, scarcely exceeded One Hundred Thousand Pounds Sterling.

The punctuality with which this vast revenue is paid,—*nam, we mean, for India*—affords a very satisfactory proof, that it is raised without much difficulty. The only criterion by which we can judge of the equability or inequability in the mode of the rate for rent on the landholders, is the number of estates sold for arrears of revenue during the year. Whenever the assessment exceeds the capacity of the estate to pay it, the Zemindar allows it to fall into "balance," and it is put up for sale. In the Report of the Lower Provinces, we find that the number of estates sold for arrears amounted in the course of the year under review to 1,165, that the annual rent of the lands thus sold, was  $\text{Rs. } 3,27,000$  Rs. In the North West Provinces, the number of estates sold in like manner, for arrears, amounted to the very inconsiderable number of 81, and the smaller jumma, or annual rent of the estates thus brought to the hammer for non-payment was  $\text{Rs. } 2,07,720$  Rs. The number of estates for the first time in arrears for the last five years and figures to Mr. Anstey's assertion, that nine-tenths of

the agricultural population of India were annually sold up by the Company's Collectors as defaulters, the Collectors preferring this mode to that of imprisoning the wretched creatures, "simply because if they were imprisoned, the Company would have to feed them in prison." When we subjected Mr. Anstey's statistics to a rigid scrutiny some weeks back, we had not the Report from the North West Provinces before us. We are now enabled to set him right in regard to this Presidency, and to inform him, from the most authentic sources, that the whole quantity of land belonging to the defaulters, who were sold up by the Company's Collectors, amounted to just  $\text{Rs. } 408,000$  annual rent, out of the aggregate lands of both divisions of this Presidency, the rental of which is  $\text{Rs. } 775,98,000$ ; that is—not nine-tenths, or Ninety per cent., but—a little more than one-half per cent. Mr. Anstey, must, therefore, look for the support of his figurative statements to the two other Presidencies, but we feel confident they will afford him as little encouragement as this Presidency.

With regard to this Item of Estates sold, we would suggest to the Secretary of the Sudder Board at Agra, that his table should be brought to correspond more closely with that of the Calcutta Board, which is much fuller and more satisfactory. The statement is said to represent the "estates sold, &c. for the recovery of arrears of Revenue," but without a clear explanation, it is impossible for us to understand what is meant by "the number of estates let in farm" or "the number of estates held Khass." But this by the way.—It is also worthy of remark, that in the Lower Provinces, the estates which were sold, fetched  $\text{Rs. } 1,16,70,000$ , while the Government rent was  $\text{Rs. } 3,27,000$ , or about three times and a half the amount of the Government assessment. The North-West Report gives us a much more comprehensive statement than this, in the shape of a return not only of the estates sold for arrears, but also under decrees of Court, and by private sale. From this return we obtain the following important particulars. The total area of acre, which thus changed hands at that Presidency was 512,341 of which nearly three-fifths was by private treaty. The Government rent of the land thus transferred was equal to 501,790 Rs., or less than a Rupee, or two shillings, an acre; the price paid was  $\text{Rs. } 19,91,195$  which is in much the same ratio as in the Lower Provinces, that is, the land sold for three times and a half the amount of the Government assessment.

In the Lower Provinces, although the land is generally in the hands of Zemindars, and on perpetual leases, there are 5,283 estates, great and small, the bona fide property of Government, arising from purchases, escheats, and alluvial incursions. Whenever such an estate falls into the hands of Government, the perpetual settlement which was made in 1793, ceases, and a new settlement of the rent is concluded with the cultivators. Of these estates, we are informed, that 4,590 have thus been settled, and 890 still remain to be settled. From a memorandum in the Schedule given in the Report, we learn, that the difference between the new and the old rent was very trifling, not more than about  $\text{Rs. } 8,000$  in about 10 lakhs. The annual rent of these estates is  $\text{Rs. } 16,78,000$ , the whole of which appears to be punctually realised within about four per cent. The Report is not designed to give us more than the mere official figures connected with these estates; but we would like to know also, whether the assessment is lighter on estates which are the property of Government, and whether the people are more comfortable, and more at their ease, than on the estates of which are the property of the Zemindars.

An undue proportion of the Bengal Report appears to be devoted to the statements regarding the extent of which the land is sold, which remains to be adjusted; and many of these small patches of ground, we apprehend, much more in the machinery employed in settling them, than they are actually worth. We have heard of more than one file of papers equal to half a room in bulk, regarding land of the monthly rent of about nine Annas. Surely, this system might be revised, and all estates, the rent of which for ten years would not more than the county agency employed in forming what is called a settlement of them, might be abandoned. But we have

detained the reader so long with this Report, that we must hasten through the remainder of it.

In the Bengal Report, we have a comparison of the Miscellaneous duties, and these duties, including and hunting as they have been maliciously designated, but genuine, bona fide, miscellaneous duties performed by the whole revenue staff of the Lower Provinces, consisting of 7 Commissioners, 25 Collectors, 40 Government Amildars, and 83 Deputy Collectors. The account looms large. The gross amount is  $\text{Rs. } 368,720$ . Some of these matters of considerable importance. There were 10,872 cases of the sale of water tenures. We wish the Report had given us some data for comparing the extent of land belonging to Zemindars, sold up by Government for arrears, with that belonging to undiagnosed tenants which the Landholders have brought to the hammer; we might then have ascertained which was the most lenient manner. Then there were 1483 cases of the division of estates—in the North West Provinces there were 1449—so more than 6000 cases of the mutation of landed property; 29,000 letters written and answered, and no fewer than 146,000 reports from native schoolmasters disposed of. An item of far more importance to the welfare of the agricultural community is the number of summary suits for arrears or encroachments of rent, instituted before the revenue authorities, respectively, at the two divisions of this Presidency. The total number pending in Bengal on the 30th of April 1848, and instituted in the following twelve months was 56,335, of which six-sevenths were decided in the course of the year, leaving an arrear of 7730. In the North West Provinces, the number was only 25,557; the number decided was 16,409, and adjusted, or otherwise, 1768, leaving an arrear of apparently only 1290; but in the next Report, the vague and indolent expression "as otherwise" must be exchanged for something more determinate. Are we to assume it as a fact that only 1290 of these suits remained to be disposed, while in the lower provinces, the proportion was three times as large?

**VACCINATION IN INDIA.**—A valuable little blue book upon this subject, has been published by the Government of Bengal, containing a letter from the Honorable the President in Council to the Deputy Governor of Bengal, requesting that the subject may be brought specially to the notice of the principal officers employed in the Medical Department. A "Note" upon the History of Vaccination in India by Mr. D'Urqu of the Home Office. The "Note" is an exceedingly valuable document, as it furnishes a short and luminous history of the progress of Vaccination in India, and of the impediments which have hitherto retarded its diffusion, together with some practical observations upon the best method of supplanting Inoculation.

Vaccination was first introduced into India in the year 1803 by Dr. Fleming, then Senior Member of the Medical Board, and the first report upon the subject, that of Dr. Shoolbred in 1805, speaks of exactly the same difficulties which exist at present. These consisted, first, in the difficulty of keeping up the disease at a very high temperature; secondly, in the apathy of the native characters; and thirdly, in the hostility of the native Inoculators, or Ticeendars. An effort was made to render the practice of vaccination universal in Calcutta, in the hope that it might be diffused throughout the whole extent of Bengal, by prohibiting the Ticeendars from the practice of keeping up the disease at a very high temperature; but the order met with the usual passive resistance of circumstances, and soon fell into abeyance. From that time to the present, the popularity of the practice of Vaccination, and the belief in its efficacy, appear to have steadily declined among the native community, until in 1848-49, it was again decided by the Government to appoint a Committee of Inquiry. This Committee strongly recommended that inoculation should be prohibited by Legislative enactment, but the authorities were unwilling to resort to so strong a measure, as least, until better provision had been made for supplying the people with an efficient substitute. That the present system is neither efficient, nor sufficiently diffused, is evident from the unyielding death of the infants at various distant districts, and the mode in which it is applied. The annual grant made by the Court of Directors for the promotion of Vaccination throughout this Presidency, is only  $\text{Rs. } 10,000$ .



40,000 a year, and even of this trifling sum scarcely one half has hitherto been expended in the following proportions:—

Superintendent General at the Presidency, Establishment under the Medical Board and the Superintendent,...	300	0	0
20 Civil Surgeons as Deputy Superintendents at 20 each, ...	112	0	0
15 Vaccinators under the General Superintendent and at the Dispensaries in Calcutta, ...	584	0	0
15 Ditto in Dacca, Moorshedabad and Patna, inclusive of Writers and Peons, ...	1	0	0
43 Ditto in 37 other Districts, ...	186	0	0
	333	0	0

The monthly cost is Rupees, ... 1,637 0 0

or, per annum, Rupees, ... 19,884 0 0

The Superintendent General forwards the lymph, which is regularly imported from England, to his Deputies at the principal stations, and they in their turn, give it to the native Vaccinators, whose operations they are, nominally at least, bound to inspect. It is evident, that this arrangement provides effectually for Vaccination, only at the different sub-stations, and that there is little or no compulsion upon the native Vaccinators to confine themselves exclusively to that system, while the natives are at all times ready to pay them in a much higher proportion for inoculating their children. There is, in truth, no effectual control over any one portion of the establishment, and a negligent or prejudiced Civil Surgeon may at any time paralyse the efforts of the Superintendent General of Vaccine, who cannot move from the Metropolis. We cannot better exhibit the utter inefficiency of the system, than by the following tabular statement of the numbers vaccinated for the seven years ending 1843:—

	Persons	Amount expended.
1837, .....	98,706	24,003
1838, .....	42,120	27,065
1839, .....	30,250	25,966
1840, .....	30,270	29,154
1841, .....	40,211	25,707
1842, .....	52,311	23,447
1843, .....	68,680	20,200

In Madras and the North West Provinces the system is similar to that pursued in Bengal, though in the former Presidency, where there are no prejudice, there were upwards of two hundred and fifty thousand persons vaccinated in the year 1840. Far different is the system prevalent in Bombay, where the local Government appears to have taken a real interest in the extension of Vaccination, and where consequently, the establishment is not only equal to the work required of it, but is carefully superintended and assisted in its operations. The Presidency is divided into four divisions, the North Western, the South Western, the Concan, and the Deccan, and a Civil Surgeon is appointed to each, as Superintending Vaccinator, with a consolidated allowance of Rs. 410 a month, in addition of course, to his pay. These Superintendents have each a certain number of Vaccinators under them, and an allowance of peons and servants to facilitate their operations. They are devoted to this especial duty, and obliged to keep incessantly moving about for seven months in the year. During the unfavorable season, that is, the rains, the native Vaccinators are stationed in every part of the country, and as soon as the weather will allow of it, the Superintendent moves to these places, and inspects the operation. Of his subordinates. He also vaccinates himself as many children as he can, but the number is not considerable, as the mothers are afraid to let the children go out of the house alone, and will not accompany them themselves. As soon as his inspection of one village is finished, he proceeds to another, and thus, in his seven months journeying, he visits nearly every portion of his district, and dispenses lymph to any inhabitant who chooses to employ it. The superiority of the Bombay system to that of any other presidency is sufficiently manifest, and it has been three times recommended for adoption in Bengal, but always without success, though there is a grant of Rs. 20,000 a year for the purpose still unexpended. There appears to exist, especially in the North West Provinces, a vague idea, the Vaccination is opposed to certain religious prejudices among the natives, but we do not think this would be of much importance if the people could be made to confide in the virtues of the "English Vaccine." From the day when the natives commenced taking medicine prepared by European

all religious obstacles to medical improvement became surmountable. Speaking from personal observation of facts at our own doors, we do not hesitate to say that the objection to it arises not from any religious prejudice, but from a contemptuous disbelief in its efficacy; and we are inclined therefore to consider it worth while to institute an enquiry into the effects of climate on the virus. It certainly does not always prove effectual, and every failure is triumphantly pointed out as a strong evidence of the folly of the English system. We think the personal efforts of European Surgeons dispersed over the country would be of the very greatest service, but legislative enactment, would and could produce nothing but boundless opposition. It would arm native functionaries with new powers, and these powers would be immediately abused.

THE BENARES MAGAZINE.—The Twenty-eighth number of this publication, which now appears every two months, and not every three, as we at first understood, contains no less than Twelve articles, upon all kinds of subjects, from Landed Tenures in the North-West to a Review of Alton Locke. We are inclined to think that the Editor, perplexed with the opulence of his materials has endeavoured to insert a little too much in this number. We do not object to a wide diversity in the subjects of the different articles; indeed it is rather a relief; but we doubt if such an olla podrida as is here presented to us, is quite so acceptable to the general taste, as more substantial and less diversified cookery. The articles in general, particularly those marked "to be continued" are too short, and it is tiresome to get little bits of an Essay on Western India at intervals of two months. In other respects, the spirit of the Magazine is well sustained, and the Editor has evidently secured the services of able contributors, who impart a lively tone to the publication.

The first article on "landed tenures in the North-West Provinces" is not a dry disquisition on the law and arrangements for the collection of Revenue in the Agra Presidency, but a series of amusing, and we doubt not accurate, sketches of the peasantry of the North-West. The story of the quarrel among the Rajpoot cousins, and the subsequent discovery of the treasure, is exceedingly well told, and brings the peculiar qualities of that unique people into strong relief. The writer says he has introduced it to shew the benefits which result from the union of the powers of Collector and Magistrate in one individual, but it seems to us, to illustrate much more strongly the patience, temper, and knowledge of the people, displayed by the individual Collector. Here is a pleasant piece of description:—

"I never go over one of these fine old Rajpoot forts, without half a day trying the quiet country-life they lead:—there is such a rude abundance of farm produce, such sleek cattle and horses, such quiet shady spots and corners. Mullowlee was as nice a place of the sort as I had ever seen. Passing through a large open court, surrounded with roomy well built stables and store rooms, we came to a square two-storied house. I observed the Deputy send on a man to order the females out of the way. The dwelling house was built with blind high walls outside, but opening within into a quadrangular court, which was overlooked by the flat-terraced roofs and open verandahs, from which the women saw their little share of the world. The walls, where not painted with grotesque figures, sparkled with the fine white silver sand of the Deah which was carefully plastered over them; implements for spinning, cleaning grain and cooking were strewed about; every thing looked comfortable and home-like. The fact was, as I afterwards heard, the good folk of Mullowlee had quarrelled so violently amongst themselves the day before my visit, that no dinner had been cooked nor eaten. To make up for lost time, on the morning when I peeped into their house, an abundant meal was preparing; though, as we shall see presently, a second fast-day was in store for the family party."

In the next article on "Kavanagh's Discovery of Language," the Reviewer expends a good deal of wit upon a very harmless, and particularly stupid book, and the third upon the "notions of Illadoos" is, to us at least, nearly unintelligible. The "Hints for Legends" are very good reading, though the first story of Cimaroona is a little too old, and comes from an original source. In the article on "the Rig Veda," the writer has attributed to us a sentiment which we are very anxious to disclaim. He says, "Professor Wilson's version of the Rig-Veda

is a book to be received with thanks. The "Friend of India"—no friend to the Sanscrit—with grumbling acknowledgment admits this." Not a bit of it. We have the most ardent friendship for the Sanscrit; what we object to is, the determination manifested by the Visitor, who is all powerful at Hayleybury, to cram Sanscrit down the throats of men who cannot in after-life have any use for the language, and whose dislike to its interminable grammar deprives them of the philological benefits they might have attained from the study of a recondite tongue. For the rest, the article is a good one. The Reviewer is of opinion, that Dr. Wilson has rendered the Rig-Veda unnecessarily prosaic, and we partly agree with him. We give his illustration of one verse in their prose and poetic dress. Professor Wilson translates the first verse of the book "I glorify Agoi, the high priest of the sacrifice, the divine, the ministrant, who presents the oblation, and is the possessor of great wealth." It is rendered with the same literal accuracy, but more poetic vigor by the Reviewer thus:

"Glory to Agni the High Priest,  
The Ministrant Divine, who bears aloft  
And offers to the Gods the sacrifice—  
Wealth-saturated fire."

The section of an article on Western India, is not as we had hoped it would be, a description of the various races who inhabit the districts through which the writer has travelled, but an account of a visit to the caves of Ellora and Ajunta. It is well written, but the subject is worn thread bare, and we do not see that the writer has any new information to communicate. He is evidently, however, well acquainted with the people among whom he is travelling, and might give us information far more valuable than a rifacimento of a description a hundred times repeated.

NATIVE CHRISTIAN TEMPORAL AID SOCIETY.—We beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of three reports of the proceedings of this Society, for three separate years, though we can only now notice that for 1850. The Society was established in 1844, for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the poorer portion of the Native Christian community, and is managed exclusively by natives, the Committee and Secretaries being all native converts. The funds are, however, supplied by both Natives and Europeans. The means of the Society are exceedingly limited, the sum total of subscriptions received during the past year being Rs. 324, but it is satisfactory to observe, that the portion of the contribution subscribed by native converts is increasing. In all cases of the kind, their great poverty as a class must be taken into account. The money collected, is, in general, devoted to the support of those who are unable to support themselves, from actual physical infirmity, but we are sorry to observe some few indications of that tendency to indiscriminate charity, which can only result in diminishing the spirit of self-reliance, so peculiarly necessary to men in the position of the native converts. In one case, in particular, a petitioner had borrowed of a friend, seven Rupees, and had made no effort for a whole year, to pay the money. When at last pressed by his creditor, he applied to the Society for relief. The Missionary who gave him his recommendation, with great judgment advised the Society to limit their assistance to two Rupees, the remainder to be advanced to him from another source, and worked out. The seven Rupees were, however, given without any stipulation for repayment. We think that if the Committee with their present limited means were to confine their liberality solely to such as are disabled by old age, or bodily infirmity, they would effect a larger amount of practical good, than they can here for under their present system.

THE SATYARNOB. (SEA TRIL.)—We are happy to find that the literary and secular periodical of this name started by Rev. J. Long twelve months ago, is so very successful. The project for has been brought into the world in a new form. It is a handsome little monthly magazine, containing twelve broad pages of matter, and illustrated with plates which, we fear, are of too high a character for the generality of native readers. They are cast from the original plates of the Penny

*Magazine*, and supplied, gratuitously we believe, by the well known publisher, Charles Knight, on condition that they shall not be employed in illustrating English works. The articles, as may be perceived from the subjoined list, are of a character befitting a periodical of a mixed religious and secular character, and the publication is another valuable contribution to the great work which is steadily progressing, of supplying the native community with a regular literature which shall be at once interesting and instructive:—

Magna Charta, ... ..	1
On Caste, ... ..	3
On the Historians of plagues, ... ..	4
On the mischiefs of delayed repentance, ... ..	5
Treasure, ... ..	6
The Cameloopard, ... ..	7
Biography of Rev. H. Martyn, ... ..	9
Prayer, ... ..	12

We suppose the *Penny Magazine* about to be started by the Vernacular Translation Committee, will shortly be commenced, but it seems long in making its appearance.

## WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, JULY 3.

— The *Madras Athenaeum* has received papers from the Mauritius containing some details of the mode in which the municipal business of Port Louis is conducted. The silver basket which was to have been presented to Sir George Anderson's son, Mauritius Anderson, and paid for from the funds of the municipality, will not in all probability be presented, as certain members of the Town Council object to such an employment of the public funds. A proposition for lighting the public streets with gas has been taken into consideration, and seems likely to be carried, though one member of the Council talked of the offensive smell inseparable from gas, and another, of the danger of explosions. Mr. White, the projector of the Cape Gasworks has, however, we observe, returned to the Cape, but his Agents, acting under his instructions, are still prosecuting the undertaking.

— The *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* has the following:—"The lesson taught to the farmers of England by the enormous rental exacted from them as the progress of population advanced and the price of agricultural produce was enhanced, could not be imparted to the people of India; they must undergo the same sad experience, if ever the landlord system prevails amongst them: the Government can never become either so exacting in its claims upon the land, or so minute in its information as to the produce, as individuals, and the ryots or cultivators of all classes would, if the proposed change was effected, soon be in the situation of the frogs when they petitioned Jupiter, successfully, to cashier King Log." Precisely so, but in Bengal, unfortunately, that Landlord system is not only carried out to its fullest extent as regards the exaction of high rents, but is aggravated by a systematic oppression, such as only Asiatics can practise, and only Asiatics endure.

— The *Mofussilite* under his local head mentions that the dead body of a Sepoy was found in the plain at Meerut, on the 25th June. The Sepoy was going on leave, but unfortunately was imprudent enough to make a display of his savings, and was murdered. We have for some time understood on unquestionable authority, that the waylaying and murdering of sepoys on leave has become a distinct and most lucrative branch of a system of Thuggee, which has been revived in some parts of India. The expedient generally adopted is poison, inserted in liquor or milk, but violence is frequently resorted to, and to such a height has the evil reached, that one officer of experience assured us, he believed that no inconsiderable portion of the soldiers on leave never reached their homes.

— The *Bombay Gazette* gives the following as the loss incurred by Government through the foundering of the *Palkland*.

First cost on the Stocks, ... ..	£13,973
Taking her to pieces and repacking the same, ... ..	1,750

£15,723

To this must be added the cost of freight for bringing her out in pieces, the rebuilding, and the Government stores lost with her, which we should imagine, not less than £20,000.

— A letter from Arabah in the *Madras United Service Gazette* speaks of the murders committed by the Arabs as almost 1,165. These formidable marauders have been engaged in 3,277 frays within one month, in the city itself, which results in the infliction of death or severe wounds on twenty-four persons, and robberies also are becoming frequent, as the gentry will not attend for want of pay, and the Kotwal is unable to dismiss them without their arrears.

— Bombay appears to be far behind Bengal in some of the appurtenances of civilization. A proposition has been brought forward to popularize the Asiatic Society of that Presidency by reducing the annual subscription from Rs.

100 to Rs. 50 a year, and the *Madras Times* thinks, that perhaps the establishment of a similar library might be more advantageous. Is it possible that the Presidency is still without one?

— The order of Government upon the sentence passed by the Marine Court upon Mr. Branch Pilot Moxon, appears in the *Calcutta Gazette*. Mr. Moxon was found guilty of causing a collision between the *Haddington* and the *Nusser*, under circumstances which made the offence a venial one. The Court sentenced him to lose one step, which from the constitution of the Pilot Service is equivalent to no sentence at all. They then sent up a recommendation to Government to lighten this no sentence, a recommendation which the latter quietly ignores.

— A case of considerable importance to the majority of Europeans in Calcutta, was decided by the first Judge of the Small Cause Court on the 3d instant. Mr. Law, the Superintendent of Police, was driving in the dark, on the right side of the road, when his buggy was run down by a carriage, which was on the wrong side, and his horse severely injured. He consequently brought an action for damages, and Mr. Reddie delivered judgment in his favour on the ground, that according to English law, when a sudden collision takes place in the dark, the party on the wrong side must pay the damages, which he assessed at Rs. 101. The Judge then entered into some analysis of the state of the law on the subject, which generally amounts to this, that in a collision, the party on the wrong, i. e. the right side, must pay the damages. We doubt very much, whether the great majority of native coachmen have the smallest idea as to the right, and the wrong side, their general notion being that the little conveyance should make way for the big one.

— The Hyderabad correspondent of the *Englishman* says, that instructions have been received by the Resident to take over certain portions of the Nizam's territory to the North West and South, to be retained until the debt is liquidated, and then returned. This intelligence requires confirmation.

FRIDAY, JULY 4.

— The *Englishman* reports that the Mormon prophet, or Elder, or whatever he is, who lately made his appearance in Calcutta, has been more successful than was anticipated. He has already secured twenty-three converts, among whom are the Reader of the Sailors Home, and eleven women. It is certain that these men are strangely successful among the uneducated, in almost all the countries they have visited. It is said that several thousand persons, chiefly labourers, passed through Liverpool in the course of 1850 on their way to the Mormon settlements in America.

— We regret to see that Capt. Ballantine, commanding the *Fyvel Kyrrum*, an emigrant ship bound from Calcutta to the Mauritius, fell over board and was drowned.

— The *Bombay Times* notices the arrival of Mirza Mahomed Hossein Khan, an intelligent young Persian nobleman in Bombay. He has been appointed Consul in Bombay for that power, and is said to have travelled in France. He, however, waited on board for some hours, until an auspicious moment for his landing had arrived. We may notice in connection with this subject that according to the *Athenaeum*, Mr. Burgess, the well known Missionary in Persia, has received permission from the Shah to print and circulate a newspaper. The first numbers of the journal contained some very sharp animadversions on the bad internal arrangements of the kingdom, but no resentment was expressed by the authorities.

— One of the most important, or at least the most frequent duties of the Magistrates both of Calcutta and Bombay, is that of compelling seamen to go on board their own vessels against their will. The reasons assigned by the sailors for their reluctance are seldom very satisfactory, though we think in both ports there is rather an undue tendency to disbelieve their statements, but we cannot pass over without notice a case lately reported in the *Bombay Times*. A sailor belonging to the *Assa Mitchell* refused to go on board, and when brought up before the Police, alleged that he considered his life was not safe. It appeared that on the outward voyage two men who had been sent aloft in a breeze were carried away with the foretop gallant mast, and no effort was made to save them, though the witness and his comrades believed it might easily have been effected.—Subsequent evidence has confirmed the accusation of extreme indifference brought against the Commander. The death of the two men was not so much as inserted in the log book.

— The *Delhi Gazette* has been informed, that the Court of Directors have sanctioned the absence of seven officers on staff employ from each Regiment of Native Infantry. It is possible that the allowance of six officers was not found sufficient for the exigencies of the service, and that this circumstance has been strongly represented to the Court by the Governor General, but we find it difficult to imagine that the Court of Directors, would thus change their minds in three months. Why, it sometimes takes half a century to get a new idea into the Court, and then it is effected chiefly through the Imperial Parliament.

— The *Harbinger* publishes a table containing a list of all Acts passed in the official year 1850-51. The number is twenty-three, and almost every variety of subject, from an Act to prevent a langur of *Acronyctus* beggars in the Straits Settlements, to the Registration Act. Five other drafts were published, but have not yet been passed, so

that the Legislative Council promulgated one new draft of an Act per fortnight.

— The same Journal has received some papers from Sydney, full of the details of the measures adopted for the future Government of the Colony. The Reformed Council of New South Wales is to consist of thirty-six elected members, and eighteen Government nominees. The representatives of the people outnumber those appointed by the Crown in the proportion of two to one, and it is easy to see, that unless party feeling runs very high, the former will have the whole Legislative power in their hands.

— The following list of converts to Rome from the great Collegiate establishments of England, confirms the view we have always maintained, that the great majority of the men who have gone over, are Oxford and Cambridge students in holy orders, whose peculiar education and ideas separate them from the mass of the middle classes of England:—"The *Church and State Gazette* reports the number of 'perverts' to Rome to have hitherto been—

From Oxford, ... ..	93
From Cambridge, ... ..	43
From Trinity College, Dublin, ... ..	5
From Durham, ... ..	1—total 141

Of the Cambridge perverts, 19 were in holy orders; and of the Oxford perverts, 63. How many have then been from the University of London?

SATURDAY, JULY 5.

— The *Citizen* of this morning corrects a mistake which we made in our last issue as to the parentage of Captain Paulet Somerset. He is the nephew, and not the son of Lord Fitzroy Somerset, being the son of Lord Charles Somerset, the well known Governor of the Cape.

— The *Harbinger* publishes the following as the latest items of European information. They are from the Parisian journal *La République* of the 25th of May, and the intelligence was received by telegraphic despatch.

"Vienna, 24th of May.

The Minister of Commerce Bruck, who has been dismissed, has been replaced by M. Baumgartner. Marshal Radetzki has arrived.

Berlin, 24th of May.

The *Gazette of Prussia* of to-day declares that the object of the conference of Varsavia is the restoration of the Holy Alliance."

The last sentence is of great importance, as the Berlin notification could hardly have appeared without the consent of the king, and the formal revival of the Holy Alliance, would unite into one compact party the Liberals, or Constitutionalists, and the Red Republicans of Europe.

— The *Bombay Times* gives a laughable anecdote of a "bit of sharp practice" upon the part of a medical practitioner that presidency. Dr. Fogarty, the practitioner in question, had attended the Police office to prefer a complaint against a servant, when a little boy was brought in with a severe cut on the forehead, said to have been given by the staff of a Police Peon. Dr. Fogarty was casually asked by the Magistrate, whether he thought it had been given by such an instrument, upon which he expressed his opinion in the affirmative. A few minutes after the following note was presented to the Magistrate:

— Sir, Esq.

Magistrate, of Police Bombay, &c.

To Dr. FOGARTY.

To opinion on oath in a case of concealed wound of the scalp situate on the Os Frontis—this day in your Court—Fifteen Rupees

William Keys Fogarty, M. R. C. S.,

London and Edinburgh.

Dr. Fogarty of London and Edinburgh has evidently read Joe Miller's story of the Lawyer, who charged his client Six and Eight pence for dining with him, and we wish his demand had allowed of a similar retort.

— A correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, advises the Government or the Conservancy to give ground in Calcutta to native gentlemen to dig tanks, and calls this a sanitary measure. Tanks may be needed in Calcutta, but they most certainly are not as sanitary measures. There is no more frequent source of disease in Bengal than the infinite number of dirty field tanks scattered all over the country, and spreading miasma in every direction. So numerous are they in some districts, that a map of the Railway line from Howrah to Serampore, in which the tanks are tinted blue, looks like one mass of blue colour.

— For some time past, there has been a constant series of attacks in one of the Calcutta journals upon the Joint Magistrate of Mungulpore, the author of them is well known not only to us, but to the Indian community. The stories about his proceedings have seldom been worthy of notice, but the following from the *Englishman* is rather more serious. One of the swimmers at the swinging festival in a village within Mr. Pepper's jurisdiction, lost his life while performing the ceremony. An investigation was made, several persons arrested, and three men who were saving the beam, were fined Five Rupees each. The sentences are exceedingly indignant, and it is said, that five hundred men have collected in the jungles, and threaten the Revenue Collectorate, while Mr. Pepper is reported to have threatened to put down the Churruks. With the publication of the last report, we cannot see any thing either reprehensible or arbitrary in Mr. Pepper's proceedings, but it is better allow the

Chairman Pook to the out of itself. It is a cruel and disgusting ceremony, and not a part of Hindookism, but one Magistrate has already ruled his commission in a humane and ineffectual endeavour to suppress it.

— The *Englishman* publishes some items of intelligence from New Zealand journals just received. The settlers are it appears to receive titles from the Crown to all the lands bought of the New Zealand Company, a measure which will remove certain doubts as to the validity of the tenure by which they hold their lands. The Jury list of the town of Nelson, contains no less than six hundred English and Scotch names, a fair proof of the rapidly increasing importance of the town.

— Lieut. Col. Garstin has, it is said, been appointed to the seat at the Military Board, vacant by the departure of Sir John Cheape, and Major A. J. Crombie is to officiate as Superintending Engineer of the Lower Provinces.

— The *Madras Spectator* informs us, that the authors of the attempt to poison Mr. Forsyth, the Judge of Tellicherry, which we mentioned some weeks ago, have been brought to trial. The actual criminal, it appears, made a full confession of his guilt, and acknowledged having thrown some unknown substance into the soup on the promise of a reward from the Nazir of the Court. This Nazir has some motive of revenge against Mr. Forsyth, and has frequently been heard to utter malignant threats against him. One of the witnesses deposed that the accused parties, viz., the Nazir, his peon, and a gardener, held a meeting where a wax figure was made, and pricked with thorns. Nevertheless the direct evidence was not sufficient to convict the Nazir, or his companions, and they were accordingly acquitted.

— The *Lahore Chronicle* notices, that the collection of books found in the Treasury of Lahore, and known by the name of the Durbar Library, have been presented by the Board of Administration, with the consent of the Government of India, to the new College of Unrisur. We hope before they are finally buried, a catalogue of their contents will be published, as they may contain documents of real importance to the early history of the Sikh faith.

— We are exceedingly happy to perceive from the same journal, that the Governor General has recommended the Court of Directors to make a monthly donation of 200 Rs. to the Agri-Horticultural Society of the Punjab, on the express understanding that the "views of the Society extend over the whole Punjab." His Lordship also accepts with pleasure the office of Patron, and promises while he remains in India, an annual donation from his private purse of Five hundred Rupees. We have reprinted Sir Henry Elliot's official letter on the subject, which is conceived in the most liberal spirit. The number of the members of the Society is already sixty-one.

— Major Edwards is to be appointed Deputy Commissioner at Julundhur.

## MONDAY, JULY 7.

— The Bombay express of the 24th May arrived in Calcutta on Sunday, the 6th instant, after a passage from England of Forty-three days. It was literally brought by a dillier from Aden,—fortunately a rapid one—or the Bombay merchants would have been gratified by receiving their May letters after those of June had been answered.

— The *Mofussilite* publishes a report, that the Maharajah of Kashmir, Golab Singh, has been murdered by his nephew, who has routed the Khalsa and defied the English power. Several European officers of H. M.'s 78th Foot are said to have been murdered also. This report is not mentioned in the *Lahore Chronicle*, but the *Hurkara* says a private letter from Umballa of the 26th ultimo, conveys the same story and that it came originally from Wuzerabad. The report of course requires confirmation, but it is not in itself improbable, as this nephew of Gholab Singh is well known to cherish the most deadly hostility to the rule of the Feringhees.

— Eleven applications for discharge were made in the Insolvent Court of Calcutta, on the 5th instant. One of the applicants was Lieut. C. H. Hawtrej, 50th N. I., who said that he was going home on sick certificate, and when in England, would receive only £20 a year; he had a wife and one child, and had already been arrested for debt. He was sworn and discharged, without any retrenchment of his allowances.

— The *Englishman* reports, that the present Chief Magistrate of Calcutta, Mr. Mills, has been appointed to officiate in the Sudder Court, during the absence of Mr. Welby Jackson, who has obtained leave of absence to the Nellorey Hills. The Nellorey hills are now so easily accessible, and their climate appears so excellent, that they are likely to be visited by a great number of invalids, in preference either to Simlah or Darjeeling.

— The same journal believes, that a new arrangement will shortly be made for the Government of the Sanguor and Bundelcund territories. They are to be divided into four districts or divisions, with Mr. Bushby, now Agent for the Sanguor States, as Commissioner for the whole. The present officers will be continued in their appointments, but as vacancies occur, they will be filled up from the Civil Service, and the whole country gradually subdivided into four provinces under the Agra Presidency. The measure has been contemplated for some time, and would have been completed long ago, but for the diversion of the Governor General's attention consequent upon the war in the North West.

— The *Englishman* among other selections, a letter from

San Francisco, published in the *Englishman*, which gives a very clear and comprehensive description of the growth of that wonderful city. The city, which two years ago contained 4000 inhabitants, now contains 40,000, including representatives of almost every known nation, and the four confagurations which have ravaged the town, have only added to its beauty. There are eight or nine newspaper offices in full employment; churches and schools are springing up rapidly; there are three theatres and an Italian Opera-house, and all kinds of places for amusement, including, as might have been expected, numerous gaming houses. Gambling is, however, becoming unfashionable, and a respectable merchant cannot now go and bet publicly at a gaming table without losing caste and confidence.

— The *Economist*, which may always be trusted on a question of figures, says, that the ordinary circulation of the *Illustrated London News*, averages from 70,000 to 100,000 per week, while during the first few days of the Exhibition, the enormous number of 200,000 per week were sold. This, we believe, exceeds the number of copies sold of any journal throughout the globe.

— The Peninsular and Oriental Company, have many shortcomings to answer for, but they are Englishmen, and the first sound of a competition has called up all the energy which has hitherto been crushed under fat dividends, and Reserve funds, and speeches in the Lower House. They have now determined to despatch an extra Steamer to Suez on the 30th of every alternate month, beginning with the 30th August next, to be met by other vessels from Southampton. They intend also in connection with this line, to dispatch from Bombay a first class steam ship direct from Bombay to Aden every alternate month. As the Honourable Company's passenger ships are universally detested at Bombay, there can be little doubt that this enterprising scheme will secure to the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steamers the whole of the Bombay Passenger traffic.

— The *Citizen* announces, that from the 8th instant, the sole editorial responsibility of that journal, will be vested in Mr. Tollemache Healty. We are exceedingly glad to welcome that gentleman once more into the field of editorial discussion, and not the less so from the following paragraph; "It will be gratifying to the readers of the journal created by Mr. Newmarch to learn that that gentleman contributes more than a verbal expression of good will in carrying out the new arrangements."

— The *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* in an article upon a recent Act, passed to determine the rights of ownership in certain foras lands—(lands reclaimed from the sea)—starts a very curious legal question as to the right of the Honourable Company to consider the land in Bombay as their own, upon the same tenure as the rest of India. In other words, does the original property of land in Bombay vest in the Company? As the Company received the land from the Crown, and the Crown from Portugal, is not the peculiar right of property which they claim over the rest of their possessions in India modified, if not nullified, in the case of Bombay, by the transfer having been made from an European instead of an Oriental power. To decide the question, it would be necessary to know exactly the terms upon which the Portuguese originally obtained possession of the island.

— The *Bombay Times* in an excellent article upon the oppression to which the Press was formerly subject in India, mentions one case of far greater atrocity than that of Mr. Buckingham. In the year 1832, a temperately written letter appeared in the *Bombay Gazette*, then edited by Mr. H. Bowden, complaining of the rate of Exchange at which the English pay of the European troops was converted into Rupees. Mr. Bowden was threatened with instant deportation, unless he gave up the names of his correspondent, which he was unable to do, as the letter was anonymous. The sentence would have been carried into effect, but Hugh O'Donnell, a private in the Queen's Royals, acknowledged himself the author. He was tried and punished with Five hundred lashes, and six months imprisonment, and the grievance of which he had complained was redressed a few months after. This was not the act of a mild despotism, but of the most infamous and execrable tyranny.

— The *Lahore Chronicle* understands, that the next examination in the Native languages, will be the last of their kind, and that for the future all examination papers will be drawn up in Calcutta, and forwarded to the different committees.

— The *Madras Athenaeum* reports, that an experimental Electric Telegraph is about to be laid down from Government House, to the Government offices of that Presidency.

## TUESDAY, JULY 8.

— The following is the result of the last Opium sale:—  
Patna, Chests 1980 Average 954 Proceeds 18,88,950.  
Benares, " 800 " 910 " 8,10,350.

The *Englishman* publishes a list of the buyers at this sale, with the number of chests purchased by each, but his tabulated statement might be made a little more clear by a different arrangement of the figures. The largest purchaser appears to have been Mr. D. J. Ezra, but almost the whole of the lots were purchased by Natives, many of them doubtless acting for European houses.

— The *Englishman* mentions that the price of Government Securities in Calcutta was affected by the rumour put forth originally by the *Mofussilite* of the murder of Golab Singh and the British Officers. The Indian Funds are not

quite so sensitive as those of England, but the native buyers are still very susceptible with regard to ill news from the North West. The intelligence of the capture of Shurt-pore was known in the Native community long before it reached Government, and the native capitalists who had obtained intelligence by means of a dromedary dawk rushed to the Treasury to subscribe to the loan.

— The Mauritius emigrant vessels appear to be singularly unfortunate. The *Aeneas*, with one hundred and fifty returning coolies on board, has got ashore on a sand near the Gloster Mills.

— The *Bombay Times* quotes the following harsh order from the *Government Gazette*, Madras:—"No. 118 of 1851.

— The Right Honourable the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the Salaries of persons belonging to the School establishment as fixed by G. O. G. No. 212 of 1841, shall be paid to them only when actually present and in the performance of their duties, the full allowance being consequently claimable by those who may be appointed to fill their places during their absence." Why not begin at the top, and apply this rule to Members of Council?

— Dr. Maxwell, Garrison Surgeon of Trichinopoly, has sent a long letter to the *Madras Spectator*, containing a notice of the effects produced by certain native and European remedies in different diseases. One of these is remarkable, though we are not possessed of sufficient medical knowledge to test its accuracy. Dr. Maxwell has made experiments with Margosa or Neem oil, (*melia azadirachta*) as a specific in cases of scrofula, and nearly equal liver oil in the treatment of consumption.

— The *Bangalore Herald*, apparently on the authority of a private communication, says that Captain Impey, lately of Moulteln, announces that he has been solicited to take the Command-in-Chief of the Burmese Army in Ava. We are inclined to think that the Ava Government have really offered Captain Impey a command, though not quite so lofty a one as is generally rumoured.

— The *Bombay Gazette* mentions that the Government of Bombay has requested the Railway officials to allow the Superintendent of Repairs to take copies of the original plans and sections of the proposed line of Railway, in order to provide for any difficulties that may arise in crossing the public streets of the island. The request is exceedingly reasonable, but it has been made under the authority of certain standing orders of the House of Commons, which do not appear to us to have any particular validity in Bombay.

— Mr. Bunbury, the Secretary to the East India United Service Club, has addressed a letter to *Allen's Indian Mail*, denying the authenticity of certain statements with reference to the affairs of the Club, copied into the *Friend of India* from the *Mofussilite*. Mr. Bunbury says, that the number of members of the Club in the Bengal Presidency, on the 31st December last, was 931, of whom only Eighteen were wholly in arrears, the remainder having paid up either entirely, or in great part.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 9.

— The intelligence of the crisis at Hyderabad is confirmed by the *Madras Spectator*. The Hyderabad correspondent of the *Englishman* says, that the propositions forwarded by the Governor General to the Nizam comprise a demand for the cession of territory, yielding a revenue of thirty-six lakhs a year, to be retained by the British Government until the debt, now amounting to above eighty lakhs (800,000L.) is fully liquidated. The Nizam is also required to appoint a competent Minister, and to arrange for the regular payment of the Contingent. It is rumoured that the letter of the Governor General contained some expressions of considerable severity, and the following sentence is particularly mentioned:—"You do not understand the power of the British Government, it can destroy you in a moment, and leave not a vestige of you. (Nabood-o-be-nishan.)" We shall probably return to the subject next week.

— The *Englishman* mentions on the authority of Sydney journals, that the colonists near Morton's Bay, have commenced the cultivation of cotton, and have been so successful, that they have begun to plant it on a great scale.

— The *Bombay Gazette* states, that the Court Martial on Lieutenant Fenner, the officer in charge of the unfortunate steamer *Falkland*, has terminated in a verdict of acquittal. Mr. Fenner proved that he had made every effort in his power to preserve the *Falkland*, but she was of too fragile a build to withstand a heavy sea. It was remarked, however, by the Court, that had the vessel run for land on the first discovery of the leakage, she would have been saved. Such a course was proposed by Lieutenant Fenner, but the proposition was rejected by his superior officer, Lieutenant Draper, in command of the *Berenice*.

## To Correspondents.

We are unavoidably compelled to postpone *Tache sans Tache*.

The Appeal on behalf of the Christian Mission at Nistapur, shall appear next week.

Toby has been received.

We beg to acknowledge with thanks the following sums for the *Friend of India*:—

Abdool Currim,	...	to Dec. 1851,	20 0
Lieut. Karbeer Khutree,	...	Do.	40 0





justly considered valuable, I am induced to address you in confirmation of the truth of the description given in your journal of the state of the districts around Calcutta.

I have, for nearly three years, superintended indigo properties, occupying a great part of the Kiannahur district, and extending into the twenty-four Pergunna, Baraset, Hooghly, Jessore and Moorsahedabad Zillahs, and I was for a short time, connected, in the same way, with the Burdwan district. I have been, thus, afforded a very fair opportunity of ascertaining the utter want of protection to persons and property, (except the persons and property of Europeans who protect themselves) and the corruption and inadequacy of the police, in those districts, and am enabled to give the fullest confirmation of your statements,—while, as the representative of parties who have embarked a very large capital in Mofussil property, who have a considerable number of native dependants, as well as several European gentlemen in their employ, re-ident in the Mofussil, and who circulate there, yearly, some lakhs of rupees, I feel myself, not only entitled, but called upon to afford you such aid as I can in urging Government to adopt extraordinary and stringent measures for the remedy of the evils pointed out by you.

In confirming your representation of the lawless state of the districts around Calcutta, I, by no means, desire to throw blame on the Magistrates in charge of them, for with a corrupt and inadequate police, the most intelligent and laborious Magistrate may be rendered almost useless.

The duties of a Magistrate are, however, so important, and he is so powerful for good or evil, that I certainly think Government should select those officers from a more experienced class of their servants, than they do at present, and then they might, beneficially, entrust them with much larger powers of summary and independent action.

You have confined yourself to the notice of dacoities, but the Mofussil is, frequently, the scene of other outrages, in which considerable bodies of armed men are engaged and life, occasionally lost. For the repression of infractions of the law of this nature, Government, taking advantage of the principals being, usually, persons of property, has conferred very extraordinary powers on its officers, which in inexperienced, or improper hands may have made the means of inflicting great injury unnecessarily and unjustly, but, it appears to me, to have left them, practically, unable to give to the party to whom their decision may be favorable, the full enjoyment of his rights. Were it not so, I believe, planters would be rarely engaged in these affairs, for no man with the smallest sense of humanity, or the commonest perception of his interests, would allow any thing, but a case of extreme necessity to drive him to enter upon the cruelty, ruffianism, expense, trouble, anxiety, and certain loss attending them. But, if the law decides, that he is to be put into possession of a piece of land, and is without power, so to control another claimant, as to allow the legal possessor to cultivate, to sow, or to reap in peace, what is he to do?

He has but two courses open to him—either sit down quietly and allow himself to be ruined by his neighbours, or to undertake his own defence. When I arrived in this country, I entertained the opinion, very generally current in England, that it was one of the best governed in the world, and that from the less turbulent character of the inhabitants, and the more despotic power of the Government, person and property were more secure here, than there. But I began to doubt the correctness of that opinion, when, soon after my arrival, a fight between two large bodies of armed men, in the pay of powerful Zemindars, took place in the immediate neighbourhood of the Governor General's residence, and when, just about the same time, it was reported to me, that a gentleman, in charge of one of the properties I had come from Europe to look after, had been attacked in broad day-light, in a very populous district, not eighty miles from the capital of the empire, by a body of latichs, had been dragged off his horse, beaten and taken away to the Cutcherry of a Zemindar, and there confined and threatened with torture, if he did not sign a document making certain monies payable, which were not due.

The planter, Mr. Larnour, was a man of spirit, and refused, and, fortunately for him, the Deputy Magistrate of the district, Mr. Hewitt, was also a man of spirit and activity, and came to the spot, immediately, in person, which alone procured his release, for the local police, supposing them not to have been paid by the Zemindar, were quite inadequate to that effect.

In conclusion, I beg you not to abandon the advocacy of the cause you have so ably and vigorously taken up, and to make whatever use you please of this communication, for accustomed to live in a country where men of all classes have recourse to the press for the exposition of their opinions upon public matters, or to urge redress of their grievances, I have not the slightest objection to the honor of appearing in print as your correspondent.

H. W. CRAWFORD.

Calcutta, 24 July, 1851.

THE PREVALENCE OF DACOITY IN THE DISTRICTS AROUND CALCUTTA.

To the Editor of the Friend of India.

SIR,—If the subject has not yet passed away, I beg to offer some further remarks on the prevalence of dacoity in the districts around Calcutta, in continuation of those which you were so good as to publish last week.

It has been suggested to me, that the crime of dacoity has not actually increased during the past year, but rather that its victims through the help of the English and Native Press have given louder utterance to their sufferings. Be this as it may, the positive amount of existing evil is quite sufficient to call for redress, and it is well if the long-suppressed cry has at last been able to reach the ears of Government.

You have ascribed the increase of dacoity in a great degree to the inefficiency of the present village watch or chowkeedaree system. There can be no doubt that the village chowkeedars are inefficient, ignorant, venal, cowardly, and thievish, and if there is any other opprobrious epithet it may be added without fear of contradiction. But I would ask any one, who has read Mr. Edwin Chadwick's "First Report of the Commissioners, appointed to enquire as to the best means of establishing an efficient constabulary force in England," if he remembers the state of the village watch in England as depicted by the most indubitable evidence there brought forward; and I will undertake to say, that for every act of stupidity, malice, timidity, and vice which may be charged against the chowkeedars of Bengal, a corresponding or more exaggerated offence may be found to have been proved against the old race of village constables in England.

Now, as it is only twelve years since the improved system of Police was introduced into England, and even then no means universally throughout the country, it is not surprising that the tide of innovation has not yet reached India, involved during that period in external wars and financial difficulties. But now that the time has come at last, it comes with all the advantage of experience practically gained, and the necessity is the more cogent on the Government of India immediately to take measures for adapting the principles of the new English Police system to the different climate and people of this country.

Judging from the Regulations of Government, the principles of Police management hitherto appear to have been, Firstly, an entire mistrust of their own Police; Secondly, a steady determination to disavow any direct connection with the pay and support of the village chowkeedars. These two principles, if they may be so called, are the very reverse of those which guide the new Police system, which proceeds on an entire confidence in the honesty of its agents, and at the same time, takes every precaution to secure them from temptation, by the most liberal pay, attention, and supervision. At the very root of the matter lies the question, whether the laborer is worthy of his hire, and the existing race of chowkeedars at once supply the answer to the question, shewing exactly the kind of servant which is procurable for an irregular and uncertain remuneration, such as they now obtain. The Regulation law is silent as to the chowkeedar's pay. The Superintendent of Police has most correctly laid down, that there is no law by which the Magistrate can enforce the payment of a chowkeedar's wages, and although Magistrates with this curb in their mouths, do venture not unfrequently to insist upon payment being made by the villagers or Zemindars to chowkeedars whose services are undoubted, they must do it *Suo periculo* and with the probability of being pulled up most sharply if any village patriot persists in opposing to the utmost this irregular taxation.

The only attempt which the law makes to insure the supervision of the village chowkeedars, is to require their attendance at stated intervals before the Thanna Darogah. There cannot be a greater mistake than this, for as some chowkeedars live at such a distance, that their attendance is only required once a fortnight, they are regularly absent from their villages at the prescribed intervals, leaving an open field for the operations of thieves and dacoits, of which the latter are not slow to avail themselves. Any plan of co-operation or local inspection is unknown, or if known, it is in the most objectionable form, being conducted by Thanna Burkundazes, Jenadars, and Mohurrirs, officers grievously underpaid, and who avowedly look upon their duty of *roundquait* as a means of improving their incomes by living at the expense of those villagers to whom they thus extend the wing of their protection.

It would be fighting against a shadow to prove by details the inefficiency of the present chowkeedaree system. It is admitted, nay proclaimed on all sides, by ryots and Zemindars, by Magistrates, Darogahs, and even the chowkeedars themselves individually, discontented at their miserable pay. But the change to be effected is no small one. To provide a new race of chowkeedars on a fixed pay, or merely to increase the pay of the present employees is futile, and the experiment where it has been introduced, has failed of success. All the arms and springs of the machinery must be adapted to each other, and deep and deliberate inquiry must necessarily precede the radical and extensive changes required. It is now several months since it was reported in Calcutta, that the Government of Bengal had recommended the appointment of a Commission or of a Commissioner to inquire into the state of the village chowkeedaree system, but as such an inquiry must be attended with expense, and as the power of the purse lies with the Government of India, and those conservative bulwarks of our Upper House, the Honourable Members of Council, it is with them that the responsibility of any further delay must now rest, and it is to them that the people of this

country must now look for that redress which they so anxiously desire.

I fear, that I have exceeded the limits of your patience, and will conclude.

AN EX-MAGISTRATE.

30th June.

COLONEL ECKFORD AND THE MILITARY FUND.  
To the Editor of the Friend of India.

SIR,—In the late discussions in the newspapers, ament Colonel Eckford and the Military Fund, the army if they choose may find food for reflection as to the equitableness of present arrangements or otherwise. The uses of the Fund are generally understood, but its abuses in the widest sense of the word are only known to the few within whose cognizance instances of such have occurred. A body of officers, however, met to discuss the matter, would readily arrive at a just conclusion, in what is not a subject of much perplexity, and I think, the army would do well to take into consideration, whether it would not be fairer for all parties that a certain gratuity or allowance should be given to sick officers, irrespective of property, or private means altogether. No questions would then require to be asked, nor doubts raised of the unpleasant nature lately exhibited to the public.

WELL-WISHER.

16th June, 1851.

THE CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITY FUND.  
To the Editor of the Friend of India.

SIR,—Your correspondent *Regulation*, who professes to support the view taken by the Managers of the Civil Service Annuity Fund on the question of refunds, and whose letter appeared in your paper of the 26th instant; is probably already sufficiently answered; but should your arguments have failed to convince him of his error (which is hardly possible), I would beg to ask him a few questions on the subject of his communication.

Will *Regulation* say that he believes, or that any of the Managers believe, that on establishing the Annuity Fund, the Honorable Court intended to subject all those Civil Servants, who should not retire from the service, on completing payment of the half value of the annuity, to a penalty of 4 per cent. on their salaries and allowances received after that date.

If *Regulation* is of opinion, that such was the intention of the Court, how does he reconcile such intention, with their expressed determination not to support any scheme of Annuity Fund which did not hold out advantages of larger amount, than could be realized by any other mode of investment?

Will *Regulation* maintain, that no difference exists in the circumstances and allegations of those subscribers, who entered the service bound by a clause in their Covenants to abide by and conform to all rules that might be passed; and those who were not so bound, and who, when they became subscribers to the Fund, contracted no such allegation,—but became subscribers on the guarantee of the Honorable Court of certain advantages to be derived from the Fund?

Will *Regulation* maintain, that the terms of contract in both cases must necessarily be the same, and if not, that the same rules must equally apply to both parties?

If, as asserted, no refund whatever of excess payments is claimable of right by a retiring annuitant under the Rules of the Fund, will *Regulation* explain upon what principle of equality of advantages (of which the subscribers were assured by the Court) the refund of all excess payments above the quarter value of the annuity was granted till 1842, and from that date refunds discontinued, even above the half value of the annuity? or what considerations induced the Honorable Court to grant that indulgence to a few subscribers and for a limited period if no refund, whatever, was claimable of right?

Will *Regulation* explain the meaning of the declaration of the Honorable Court, that the refund of excess payments above the half value of the Annuity is in accordance with the Regulations of the Fund?

Or, will he explain what is meant by the declaration of the Court, that the advantages of a Fund so constituted, are, that a Civil Servant when he retires, has in addition to his own savings, whether they have accumulated in the shape of subscriptions to the Fund, or in any other mode, a life annuity proportionate to the share of the Company's contribution to the Fund?

Will *Regulation* point out where, and since when the discovery has been made, that "the excess subscriptions of those members of the service who do eventually retire on the annuity, but who do so at an advanced age, when they have subscribed an amount, more than sufficient to purchase that portion of an annuity for which they are required to pay" forms an asset applicable to the benefit of the Fund?

If *Regulation* can satisfactorily explain these points, he will afford a proof that he has given more attention to the subject, than he supposes others to have done, or then his letter would appear to indicate.

Will *Regulation* have the goodness to explain, why the refund of excess subscriptions above the half value of the annuity should be allowed at Madras and Bombay, and disallowed in Bengal?

A SUBSCRIBER TO THE ANNUITY FUND.

30th June, 1851.

## GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

## ORDERS BY THE HONORABLE THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

## APPOINTMENTS.

23d June, 1851.

Mr. J. J. Durant, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, to be in Medical charge of the Station of Mooteeharry, in the District of Champaran.

Baboo Shamachurn Dutt, Sub-Assistant Surgeon, to be in Medical charge of the Penitentiary at Deegah, in the District of Patna.

25th June, 1851.

Mr. H. C. Richardson, Assistant to the Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Malda, has been vested with the special powers described in Clause 3, Section 2, Regulation 3, of 1831 in that District.

27th June, 1851.

Moulvie Shadut Ulee, Principal Sudder Ameen, and Moulvie Nazeroodeen Mahomed, Sudder Ameen and Moonsiff of Sylhet, have been respectively vested with the special powers described in Clause 3, Section 2, Regulation 3, of 1831, in that District.

28th June, 1851.

Mr. H. Diaper to officiate as Civil Assistant Surgeon of Behar, during the absence of Mr. T. A. Wethered, or until further Orders.

Mr. A. Beale to officiate for Mr. Diaper, as Civil Assistant Surgeon of Purneah.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

27th June, 1851.

Mr. J. T. Shave, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9, of 1833 in Zillah Jessore, for sixteen days, in addition to the leave granted to him on the 18th instant.

## NOTIFICATIONS.

24th June, 1851.

Mr. E. T. Colvin, of the Civil Service, has been permitted to proceed to England, under medical certificate, on Senior Furlough, to commence from the 10th of March last.

25th June, 1851.

Mr. B. B. Chapman, Assistant to the Magistrate and the Collector of Hooghly, joined his station on the 24th instant.

1st July, 1851.

Mr. J. Hume, Senior Magistrate of the Calcutta Police, resumed charge of his Office on the 30th ultimo.

J. P. GRANT, Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

## NOTIFICATIONS.

Simla, 18th June, 1851.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to grant Lieutenant G. G. Pearce, Assistant Commissioner at Hazara, leave of absence for one month, from the 1st September next, to visit Cashmere, on private affairs.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to confirm the Regimental Order, issued by the Officer Commanding at Kohat, dated the 20th ultimo, directing the entertainment of 8 Camels for the carriage of the Tents of the Detachment ordered to Koshelghur, to escort the Guns of the 1st Punjab Battery from that place to Kohat.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to grant Mr. L. Bowring, Deputy Commissioner of Jhelum, leave of absence for three months, from the 10th proximo, under Sections 11 and 12, of the Amended Absentee Rules, to visit Cashmere and the Hills, on private affairs.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to appoint Lieutenant A. G. Davidson, 20th Regiment Madras Native Infantry, to act as Second in Command of the Meywar Bhool Corps, during the absence, on leave, of Lieutenant R. M. S. Annesley.

19th June, 1851.

Lieutenant J. DeCourcy Sinclair, of the Madras Artillery, received charge of his appointment as Commandant of Artillery in the United Malwa Contingent, on the 27th ultimo.

20th June, 1851.

The Most Noble the Governor General has been pleased to appoint Brevet Major H. B. Edwards, C. B., 1st European Bengal Fusiliers, to be a Deputy Commissioner in the Punjab.

23d June, 1851.

The Governor General is pleased to grant Lieutenant J. E. Fraser, Assistant Commissioner at Loodiana, leave of absence, on medical certificate, from the 24th May to 15th November next, to visit Simla and the Hills North of Dehra.

The Most Noble the Governor General has been pleased to grant Lieutenant C. W. D'Oyly, Adjutant 1st Regiment Sikh Local Infantry, leave of absence, on medical certificate, to visit Simla, from the 30th of May to 13th September next.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to grant Mr. H. Brereton, Officiating Deputy Commissioner at Jullundur, one month's leave of absence, under Section 11, of the Absentee Rules, from the date on which he may quit his Station.

The Most Noble the Governor General is pleased to appoint Mr. T. H. Kavanagh to officiate as Extra Assistant and in charge of the Treasury at Umballa, during the absence on leave of Mr. J. Taylor, the Deputy Collector.

H. M. ELLIOT,

Secy. to the Govt. of India, with the Govt. Genl.

## ORDERS BY THE HON'BLE THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

## APPOINTMENTS.

Simla, 25th June, 1851.

Mehndee Ali Khan, Moonsiff of Kullialabad, Zillah Gorakhpore, to be Sudder Ameen of Gorakhpore.

Mahomed Mehndee Hossain, Moonsiff of Captainganje, in the Gorakhpore District, is promoted to the 1st Grade, vice Mehndee Ali Khan appointed Sudder Ameen.

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

20th June, 1851.

The Hon'ble R. Drummond, Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Pilibheet, for fifteen days, under Section 11, of the Absentee Rules, from the date on which he may avail himself of the leave.

21st June, 1851.

Mr. James Brewster, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of Mynpoory, to 31st October next, un-

der Section 8, of the Absentee Rules, from the date of making over charge of his duties.

24th June, 1851.

Mr. Sullivan James Becher, Magistrate and Collector of Azimgurh, for two months, under Sections 11 and 12, of the Absentee Rules, from the date of making over charge of his duties.

J. THORNTON, Secy. to the Govt., N. W. P.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Simla, 25th June, 1851.

Munsoor Ali Khan, Deputy Collector under Regulation 9, of 1833, in Zillah Ghazeeপুর, for one month, on private affairs, from the date on which he may make over charge of his duties.

J. W. SHERER, Offy. Asst Secy. to Govt. N. W. P.

## EUROPE.

## RELIGIOUS.

THE session is going on slowly and dully, without much to interest the public or to benefit the nation. The pertinacious opposition of the Romish faction, backed by Lord Arundel, and headed by Mr. Reynolds, wears the patience of the House with reference to the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, and proves what we have before said, that the Pope is a more powerful as well as more tyrannical boroughmonger, than the Cleveland, the Newcastle, the Lonsdale, the Fitzwilliams, and the Devonshires, whom the Reform Bill well-nigh extinguished.

What cares Mr. Reynolds for the principles or the superstitions of Rome! He can make a jest of Popery, and talk of the old gentleman, who was, according to the latest intelligence, in the Vatican; but may, ere long, be a lodger at Mivart's Hotel. But such is the spirit of Popery that it works with any tools that come to hand, provided they are tools, and tools adapted to its purpose. Therefore it is that the unscrupulous Member for Dublin, with his bronzed countenance, is welcomed as a champion along with the aristocratic heir to the honours of the House of Norfolk, and is fighting for another Irish seat on the event, which is pretty surely anticipated, that he will not again be returned for the metropolis of Ireland.

But what between the weariness of perpetual delays, in proceeding with the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, and the routine business of the House, the Members seem indisposed to attend to other public business, and the Crystal Palace is at once their lounge and their place of relaxation. Next week there will be another field-day in connexion with Lord Torrington and the Colonial office. Some apprehensions are felt as to the result, for, regardless of the merits or demerits of the case, the Romish Brigade, with the Arundels, the Hopes, the John Mannors, and the other enemies of true Protestantism, will do their utmost to defeat the Government.

Unfortunately for Lord John Russell, he has a weak case in the matter of Ceylon and the Colonial office. Lord Torrington's martial-law and wholesale executions do as little credit to the official management of Earl Grey, as the same practices on the part of Sir Harry Smith in Kaffria.

If the question of the conduct of Earl Grey and the Colonial office could be separated from that of the Government, we should rejoice in a verdict of condemnation. As it is, we cannot wish success to any Resolution which is designed to upset the Cabinet, and remove Lord John Russell, whilst the Anti-Popery Bill is in progress. Such a catastrophe might suit "him of the white feather," and those who cluster round the unsuccessful banner of the Knight of Netherby. But we doubt if it would even suit the policy of Lord Stanley. It is said that his Lordship would take office if he could at the end of the session; but as he deems it unwise to try a dissolution at present, and he could not work the business of the country to a successful issue during the present session, with the present House, it is most probable that the experiment will be postponed.

Meanwhile the state of the country is by no means satisfactory, and we should reckon that the Legislature was wasting its time, were it not that it is good to exhibit to the country what is the temper, the principles, and the recklessness of Popery, whether it be exhibited in the doings of the plebeian Member for Dublin, or in the aristocratic heir to the Premier Duke in England.—*Record*, May 22.

A "Declaration" by certain Roman Catholic laymen on the question at issue between the Imperial Government and their spiritual head has just been issued. The document may be taken as the general remonstrance of the body against the impending legislation. To nothing, however, beyond this formal character can it make pretension. It affirms very plainly the right of the Pope to erect Episcopal sees in any part of the world, in spite of any opposition on the part of people or Governments.—*Ibid*.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

FOREIGN GLEANINGS.—The Polish soldier, aged 127, who was received last year into the Hotel des Invalides, died on the 30th ult., in the infirmary of that establishment, from an attack of grippe.

The fast trains between Berlin and Cologne, and vice versa, have commenced running, as well as a night train between Cologne and Ostend. Letters from this place, therefore, will gain twelve hours, and those from Vienna twenty-four. The London mails, also, will arrive some hours sooner.

A telegraphic despatch from Vienna announces that the Turkish General Skenderberg had taken Bichas by storm. The Cardinal Patriarch of Venice was taken ill during the celebration of mass on Easter Sunday, and compelled to quit the church. His Eminence was carried home forthwith, and received medical aid; but a violent inflammatory fever came on, and upon the fifth day (25th) he expired.

Dr. Beke, the German traveller, has been making long explorations on the Egyptian side of Africa. He expects that the missionary efforts for that part of Africa will have their centre in the region of Uniamet, or of the Moon. Among these mountains Dr. Beke saw a volcano in an active state. In the same region he found there was a vast lake named Unambiro. Some of the mountain peaks are above the snow line, glittering in perpetual whiteness.

The grand fête in Paris, on Monday, to celebrate the third anniversary of the proclamation of the French Republic, passed off in perfect quietness. The weather was dreadful, as the rain did not cease to fall from midday to midnight.

A Carlist conspiracy has been discovered in Catalonia. Seven persons were arrested, and on their way to prison were shot by the soldiers, on the plea of their attempting to escape.

The deposits received in the Paris Savings-bank on Sunday and Monday last amounted to 479,025f. The sum withdrawn on those days was 312,186f.

The promenaders on the port of Marseilles witnessed a curious scene a few days since. A steamer arrived and landed fourteen Italians, when at the moment a body of police agents came up, and at once arrested the whole of the strangers. The motive of the arrest is not known.

The King of Hanover has gone to Berlin. Prince Schwarzenburg and Manteuffel are expected in Dresden on the 13th, as the solemn closing of the conferences will take place in the presence of the principal plenipotentiaries. The Prussian Chambers were to be closed this week.

The marriage of M. Charles de Noailles, eldest son of the Duke de Noailles, to Madlle de la Ferté-Champatreux, grand-daughter of M. Molé, was solemnised last Saturday.

The eastern coast of the United States has been visited by a terrific gale from the north-east, which continued for several days, and extended from Maine to Virginia. Minot's Lighthouse at the entrance of Boston harbour was swept away, and all its inmates drowned. Many lives have been lost at other points, and the total destruction of property is estimated at more than 500,000 dols. Eight persons were swept away with the sea wall at Deer Island.

The City of Nevada, in California, has been nearly destroyed by fire! About 200 houses are in ashes; much gold-dust has been lost; total loss, 1,250,000 dols. The conflagration was produced by incendiaries.

The railway from Paris to Chalons-sur-Saone is to be opened on the 1st of June.

The 'Salut Publique' of Lyons says that the situation of the silk-weavers in that city becomes every day worse and worse. With many of them embarrassment has become misery, and privation hunger. Measures are however, in progress to assist the suffering workmen.—*Examiner*, May 10.

TOWN AND COUNTRY TALK.—In the Ball Court, on Monday, an application was made for a rule to show cause why a criminal information should not be filed against the registered publisher of the 'Morning Advertiser' for libels contained in that journal seriously affecting the character of a religious establishment, known as the convent of Notre Dame, in Bedford lane, Clapham. The case was ordered to stand over till Monday next, to be taken before Mr. Justice Coleridge.

A very threatening fire broke out on Monday afternoon in the premises of Messrs. Beale and Co., the music publishers in Regent street. The fire was fortunately extinguished in about half an hour, but not before some serious damage was done, one of the warehouses being burnt out and others much injured.

Yesterday week Mr. Philpotts, a solicitor at Cardiff, was charged before the magistrates of that town with having committed perjury at the late assizes on the trial in an action of ejectment. The bench admitted Mr. Philpotts to bail himself in 100l. and two sureties in 50l. each.

Mr. T. G. Baring, son of Sir F. T. Baring, Bart., succeeded Mr. H. Brand as private secretary to Sir G. Grey at the Home office.

By Her Majesty's permission of her Majesty, the privilege of admission to the royal pleasure grounds at Kew will be considerably extended during the present summer season.

James Douglas, Esq., chief factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, is appointed Governor of Vancouver's Island; R. Cornwall Legh, Esq. (of the Colonial office), is appointed assistant-secretary to the Government of Malta.

The first exhibition of fruits and flowers of the Horticultural Society was held last Saturday at Chiswick. The show of flowers was much smaller than usual.

A notice has been addressed to visitors to Greenwich Hospital stating that strangers who may be desirous of inspecting the buildings will, by applying at the Painted Hall, obtain guides to conduct them, to whom it is requested that no gratuities may be offered.

With a view to the accommodation of foreigners and persons from the provinces visiting London during the Industrial Exhibition, the trustees of Sir J. Soane's Museum have resolved to keep it open four days in the week during the months of May, June, July, August, and September; namely, Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Foreigners will be admitted when the museum is open, on producing a card, to be issued at the several embassies.

A new town-hall, custom-house, post-office, and inland revenue office are about to be erected in Belfast.

It is stated that the law officers of the Crown have given it as their opinion that the Oxford University commission is not in any respect illegal or unconstitutional.

At an evening party in Aberdeen, recently, it was proposed to dispose of the belle of the room by lottery. Twenty tickets were immediately sold at a fixed price. The joke ended not here. The fortunate adventurer has since married the lady.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Wednesday, Mr. Roebuck moved for a rule to show cause why an order should not issue to the Incorporated Law Society to enable Mr. Barber again to take out his certificate as an attorney of this court. The court took time to consider their judgment.

The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce have memorialised the Government in favour of an equitable adjustment of the Sound dues.

The 'Carlisle Patriot' states that the Rev. J. Smith is in much better health, and that he was admitted to bail on Tuesday.

The Lords of the Treasury have given directions for the free delivery, at Deptford dockyard, of two cargoes of Dantzic pork, for the service of the victualling department.

Sir John Key has been elected to fill the office of alderman of the ward of Bridge Without, vacant by the death of Sir C. Hunter. A precept has been issued for the election of an alderman of the ward of Lambourn, vacant by the acceptance of the gown of the ward of Bridge Without by Sir John Key.

The third of the series of public bathing places, origi-



ated and carried out by the corporation of Liverpool, is now completed, and will be opened for business on Monday next.

On Saturday last two men, named Sudel and Smith, well known as notorious poachers, were committed for trial on the charge of having placed certain pieces of timber on the line, for the purpose of overturning a train on the Great Northern Railway.

The championship of the Thames was contested on Wednesday between Coombes and M'Kinney, of Richmond, and after a severe struggle, was again won by the former, who, besides retaining his title to the championship, was the winner of 400l. stakes.

A police constable, named Chaplain, was murdered on Monday morning, under circumstances of great barbarity, by the combined assault of ten Irishmen, who are all under remand.

Rajah Brooke has arrived in town from Malta.

A quarterly general court of the Governors of King's College Hospital was held on Monday, at the Hospital, the Rev. R. W. Jelf, D.D., occupying the chair. The report stated that on the 1st of January 114 patients were in the house and 300 had since been admitted, making a total of 414. Of these, 250 were cured or relieved, sixteen were discharged incurable or disorderly, thirty-two died, and 116 remained under treatment. The out-patients numbered 6,894, and the total admissions since the opening were 13,048 in-door and 182,605 out-door recipients.

In consequence of the large increase in the number of foreign visitors arriving daily to inspect Westminster Abbey, the Dean and Chapter have appointed two interpreters to assist the ordinary officers of the sacred edifice in explaining its chief features. There is no charge for admission.

Two large casks of eau de Cologne have arrived from the Continent, on account of the Austrian commissioners, for the Great Exhibition; the same being intended for the supply of the fountain of Cologne water, which is to be perpetually in play in the Austrian department of the Exhibition, and which, according to the arrangement, will be newly supplied to the fountain each day during the time.—*Ibid.*

Lord Ward has set an example of great liberality in throwing open his collection of pictures to the public, without further restriction than that imposed in the national museums. Dating from Tuesday next, this gallery is to remain unreservedly open for three days in the week—on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, Saturdays being set apart for artists wishing to avail themselves of the permission to make copies or studies.—*Record, May 22.*

Yesterday morning Captain Paulet Somerset, having completed the term of his sentence of imprisonment, was discharged from the House of Correction, Coldbath-fields. A great number of persons had assembled at the usual hour for the discharge of prisoners to witness his departure, but they were doomed to be disappointed, for he had left the prison about an hour before that time.—*Ibid.*

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

**NOTICE.**—The Council of Education are prepared to receive plans and tenders for the erection of a College at Kishnagur, on the following conditions:

1. The building to be of one story; the walls and foundations to be of sufficient strength and solidity to bear a second story hereafter, if required; and the order of Architecture to be suitable for such an Institution, and to be consonant with future additional elevation, in whole or in part, the proposed method of which should be shown.
2. The ground plan to include accommodation to the following extent:
  - (A.) A central hall 60 feet by 30.
  - (B.) A class room adjoining it not less than 30 feet by 30.
  - (C.) 12 class rooms not less than 30 feet by 20 each.
  - (D.) A central passage giving separate access to the rooms above-mentioned, not less than 10 feet in width.
  - (E.) Four apartments at the angles of the Building, each not less than 23 feet square.
  - (F.) Verandahs on all sides at least 10 feet broad.
  - (G.) The height of the various class rooms to be at least 30 feet.
  - (H.) Separate access to each side of the building, with a principal entrance and portico.
  - (I.) The whole to be raised a sufficient height from the ground, to ensure the freedom of the floors from damp.
3. The cost not to exceed Forty Thousand Rupees (40,000) and the work to be executed by contract, under such supervision as may be deemed advisable or necessary.
4. Further particulars and explanations, if required, will be afforded by the Secretary to the Council of Education, at his office in the Medical College, where a plan of the ground may be seen, on personal application only, any day at 4 P. M.

(By Order.)

FRED. J. MOUNT, M. D.,  
Secretary.

Council of Education, July 3, 1851.

#### FOR LONDON.

**Messrs. THOS. AND WM. SMITH'S** splendid New Frigate-built Poop Ship "Hotspur," 1,300 Tons, Joseph Toynbee, Commander, (late of the *Gloriana*), sailing from Gravesend on the 16th July, will be despatched hence on 1st February.

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Mr. Wilson, B. M. 2d Madras E. L. I. 10 years' Leader of the Band of H. M. 1st Regt. Life Guards, and late Principal Clarinetist Royal Academy of Music, London, begs to inform his subscribers and the officers of Her Majesty's and Hon'ble E. I. Company's services, that the above will be ready for issue about the 1st October next, and printed for the first time from Waterlow's Autographic Press, or Portable Printing Machine.

Mr. Wilson being of opinion, that he is the first person in India, who has used this invention, has thought it necessary to give a slight description of it, as the name of "Autographic Press," may induce the idea, that it is some cumbrous machine, similar to that used in lithographic printing; such, however, is not the case, for no press in the ordinary acceptance of the term is used at all, the subject to be printed is transferred from paper to the surface of a highly polished metallic plate, and being charged with ink, the paper on which it is to be printed is placed upon it, and the tympan being laid down, a wooden scraper, with a sharp edge, is passed over it by the hand, when a perfect impression is at once obtained. All this may be done even by a Lady upon the drawing-room table, and the whole apparatus when not in use, is enclosed in a box, which may be carried beneath the arm. The utility of such a simple application of the lithographic principle must be obvious to every one, in this country particularly, since it will obviate the necessity of transcribing by hand, official documents, written in Oriental characters, thus ensuring perfect accuracy and despatch, whatever number of copies may be required and to officers who are Painters, Poets, or Musicians, the invention will be found especially useful, as it will enable them to multiply copies of their own sketches, and compositions to any extent, with ease and secrecy, for when the requisite number of copies have been obtained, the design is effaced from the plate which is then ready to receive another. Such is a brief description of a very simple but effective apparatus, the merits of which cannot fail to be duly appreciated as soon as they are known.

This Journal has hitherto been a manuscript one, consequently, it was not extended beyond the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. Mr. Wilson, now for the first time, respectfully solicits the patronage of the officers of the Bengal Presidency.—Orders to be addressed to Mr. Wilson, Payments to Messrs. McDowell and Co., Madras, or in any way most convenient to the party ordering the Music. Payment not required until delivery of the Music. For further particulars, see "Delhi Gazette," "Bombay Times," "Madras Athenaeum," &c. &c.

Secunderabad, June 18th, 1851.

#### NEW ORIENTAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

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The New Oriental Life Insurance Company continues to grant to holders of Policies in the seven years' class the privilege, of claiming at the end of six years from the date of the Policy a new one for the like amount for a further term of years, or for life, on surrender of the original Policy without requiring fresh certificates of health, and to return one quarter of the profits in rateable division to contributors of premium on Policies of any class who are likewise shareholders.

Parties insured for the whole term of life, on becoming permanent residents in Great Britain will be entitled to a deduction of 20 per cent. on the premium which their policies bear, provided they have already paid five years premium at Indian rates, such reduction to include all other returns.

The Policies of the New Oriental Life Insurance Company permit Residence in any part of the World,—do not require proof of interest—may be transferred by simple endorsement and registry—and are INDISPENSABLE, except on the ground of fraud.

During the last eight years the Company has paid Policies on lapsed lives to the amount of Co.'s Rs. 20,60,876, and in addition to the paid up Capital which is all in Government Securities, holds a Reserve Fund equal to one year's losses on the average of a series of years on the whole amount of policies existing.

W. F. FERGUSSON,  
Secretary.

Calcutta, July 1851.

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**A**T SANTIPORE, ZILLAH NUDEA, an UPPER-ROOMED DWELLING HOUSE, pukka built, and substantially built Godowns, Ground Rent 32 Rupees per annum.

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#### NOTICE.

THE INDIAN LAUDABLE AND MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

RETURN PREMIUM.

To all parties insured in the Society without distinction. THE DIRECTORS of the Society have the satisfaction to report to their fellow-assurers, that the state of the Funds, at this, the twenty-third half-year since the constitution of the present Society, admits of a return of 20 per cent. on the premiums paid during the current half-year, after reserving the full amount of all excess, risks, and providing for the ordinary security of the Society according to the rules.

This return premium is available without exception to all parties insured in the Society, who have paid even a single half-year's premium, and will be applied in reduction of premium for the next half-year in the case of those policy-holders who already have 10 per cent. in the Guarantee Fund, on their respective amounts insured; and will be carried to the personal credits of those who have not as yet accumulated such 10 per cent.

By authority of the Directors,

JOHN STORM,  
Secretary.

Calcutta, 1st June, 1851.

With reference to the above, parties holding policies in the Indian Laudable and Mutual Assurance Society, are reminded that a half-year's premium falls due on the 1st of July next, when they will be pleased to remit the amount of their respective premiums to the undersigned, who will grant receipts for the same. He at the same time begs to observe, that although 15 days of grace are allowed, during which the premium may be paid, yet if a lapse of life should occur within that time, and the premium may be unpaid, the Society will not be liable, the Policy having expired in default of payment at the due date.

JOHN STORM,  
Secretary.

Calcutta, 1st June, 1851.

**R. B. RODDA**, Gun Maker, Tank Square, Calcutta, begs respectfully to call the attention of the Sporting World to his large stock of Double Guns and Rifles, &c. on sale at very reduced prices.

Every description of repairs to Guns, &c. on the most approved principles, and at moderate rates.

R. B. R. will be happy to forward a list of his prices on application.

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(Continued from last week.)

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NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Europe, and the Intermediate Ports (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Sunday*, will be despatched from this Office, on Thursday, the 7th Proximo, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Friday, the 8th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Redgore, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Sunday* can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

J. R. BENNETT, Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, 1st July, 1851.

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Mail of the 7th June arrived in Calcutta, on Friday, the 11th instant, after the unprecedentedly rapid passage of Thirty-four days. The Crystal Palace is still the great centre of attraction, and seems for the time, to have completely absorbed all the ordinary topics of political interest. The admission fees have at length been reduced to one shilling, but the rush of visitors was at first very much smaller than had been expected, and the journals are quite disappointed, because only Forty-seven thousand spectators have hitherto visited the building in a single day. The numbers are, however, steadily increasing, and the receipts already average £2,000 per diem. The shilling visitors have hitherto displayed the most laudable propriety of behaviour, and the apprehensions entertained by some journalists of a great scene of riot and confusion have not been realized. Her Majesty is still an almost daily visitor, and has remained once or twice to observe the rush of the shilling spectators. Among the advantages of the show, it is not the least that it has enabled the Ministry to tide over the session without a dissolution, and consequently without the risk of seeing the Government of the country in the hands of the Protectionists. The Ecclesiastical Titles Bill is still dragging its way through the Committee, amidst amendments upon every clause, and objections to almost every expression. Mr. Walpole endeavoured to strengthen the Bill, by the addition of a clearly worded preamble, setting forth the reasons for the measure, and by an amendment on one of the clauses, which would enable any person who felt himself aggrieved at the assumption of the forbidden titles, to enforce the provisions of the Act. According to the present wording of the Bill, the task of prosecution is to be left with Her Majesty's Attorney General, and the public have no security whatever, that that officer may not hereafter be a Roman Catholic, and therefore unable from conscientious scruples to enforce the Act. The argument of Lord John Russell, that the strong feeling in the country upon the subject will be sufficient to compel the Attorney General to do his duty, is singularly weak, as his Lordship may be perfectly well aware, that this strong feeling will to a great extent die away on the passing of the Act. The Irish "brigade" still endeavour to retard the progress of the Bill by every possible device, and avail themselves most unscrupulously of every form of the House, to prevent its passing through the Committee. They may even yet compel the Ministry and the Sovereign to consent to a dissolution, in which case, both the great parties in the state would probably go to the country with a Protestant cry, and the Bill would be transformed into an Act, much

more stringent than that now proposed by Lord John Russell.

On the 2nd June, the House of Commons, by a majority of Ninety, re-affirmed the propriety of appointing a Committee to consider the Income Tax, but it was found nearly impossible to obtain a fair list of members to sit upon it, as the majority of the House, though anxious to support the principle of the enquiry, were evidently of opinion that the Committee would be unable to make a sufficiently extended investigation in the short period remaining before the close of the Session. The discussion on the subject had not terminated on the departure of the Mail. The debate on Mr. Baillie's motion against Lord Torrington came on on the 27th and 29th June, and terminated in a rejection of the motion by a majority of Eighty, in a House of Four Hundred and Eighty-two members. The two speeches most worthy of notice were those of Mr. Roebuck and Mr. Disraeli. The former pointed out the difference between a territory like Ceylon, peopled entirely by Orientals, and one like Australia, filled with Anglo-Saxons, and expressed his opinion, that the only possible mode of governing such a country was by a despotism, as little severe as circumstances would allow. Mr. Hume also attacked Sir James Brooke, but the debate was without interest, and the Rajah of Sarawak having arrived in England with his health apparently restored, is both able and willing to take up the gauntlet. A long debate in the House of Lords upon the equitable disposal of the Koh-i-Noor, and the remainder of the Punjab Jewels, terminated in favour of the Government, and the "Mountain of Light" will remain in its proper place, as one of the Crown Jewels, and the property of the nation. The remainder of the House Intelligence is of little interest. Sir Robert Peel has published a correspondence between himself and Mr. Young, the Protectionist Orator, distinguished on both sides by bad writing, and the lowest personalities, and showing an evident determination on the part of the Baronet to exercise a political dictation over his tenantry. The death of the Earl of Simsbury has elevated Lord Ashley to the Upper House, where we fear his usefulness will be greatly diminished; and the last of the great Irish Orators, Richard Lalor Sheil, expired at Florence on the 25th June. As the Mormons have created some interest in Calcutta, we may mention that the London Conference Festival of the sect has been held; and their numbers in January 1851 were 30,747, while within the last few years, 17,000 have emigrated from England to Utah.

The only fact of interest in Foreign Affairs, is the rapidly increasing probability that the election of the French President in 1852, will terminate in the return of Louis Napoleon as perpetual President. It appears to be generally felt that he is the keystone of society, and that his fall would be the signal for the triumph of the Red Republicans. The Legitimists, Organists, and Republicans, will therefore probably be compelled to support him, while the "Reds" will be borne down by the votes of the peasantry. A speech delivered by the President at Dijon on the occasion of the opening of a Railway, has irritated the Assembly to madness. He declared that his Government had never lacked the support of the Assembly, and when repressive measures were to be carried, but could never obtain it for measures of popular amelioration. The Ministry slipped out of the difficulty by publishing a revised edition of the speech without the obnoxious expression, and then declaring that they were responsible only for the report published in the *Moniteur*. The King of Denmark has adopted Prince Christian of Glücksburg as his successor, and the choice appears to be highly popular. The remainder of the Continental Intelligence, with the exception of some disturbances in Rome, is without interest.

From America there is only one item of intelligence, but that one is of the very highest importance to the interests of the human race. Mr. Whitney's gigantic scheme for a Railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, has been favorably reported on in both houses of the American Congress, and sanctioned by the Legislatures of no less than Twenty States. His railway is to be 2030 miles in length, and constructed not only without any grant of public money, but without a farthing from the public. We believe his scheme is to construct the railway, and as it proceeds mile by mile, to sell the lands on each side to a certain width. Mr. Whitney has been fighting for this project for three years, but its gigantic character appalled even the Americans. He is now likely to be successful, and if so, he will single handed have achieved a work greater than the Wall of China, or the Pyramids, or even the Crystal Palace. The emigrants whom Ireland is pouring forth by shoals will people the line, and there may be those now in existence who will live to see the Celtic and Roman Catholic population of Ireland transferred to the Atlantic and Pacific Railway, and raising magnificent cities along its course, and the fields of Ireland re-peopled with a Saxon and Protestant race.

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We have given the principal items of Indian news in subsequent columns, but we must not omit to mention the distinction recently gained by the Rev. Mr. Which, Curate of East Peckham, and son of Major General Sir W. Which. The principal of the Hanwell Collegiate School, proposed as an Essay "How the Great Exhibition would operate in advancing the moral of mankind, and promoting the glory of Heaven." He offered a prize of a hundred guineas for the best Essay upon the subject. Two of the principal members of the University of Oxford consented to adjudicate the prize, and no less than One hundred and twenty Essays were sent in, of which that written by Mr. Which was considered the best. We congratulate the gallant General on the literary honors earned by his distinguished family.

Sir R. Armstrong, C. B., the newly appointed Commander-in-Chief of Madras, was to have the usual feast from the Court of Directors, on the 7th instant.

**JOTEE PERRAUD AND THE LONDON TIMES.**  
—The account of Jotée Perraud's acqittal reached England, a day or two before the departure of the Mail of the 7th of June, and we have now received the remarks of the *Leading Journal* on this transaction. It is a source of satisfaction to us to find that the observations of the *Times*, so closely coincide with those

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which we ventured to offer on the subject, more especially with regard to the credit which the acquittal reflects on the character of the Company's Courts. The Editor remarks: "The acquittal of Jotee Persaud surely demonstrates that 'all the strength of Government' is insufficient to procure a verdict against the convictions of the Court: and although the professional assistance which the prisoner's wealth enabled him to retain might have been an unusual point in his favor yet Mr. Lang's oratory is not to be credited with the outspoken honesty of the witnesses and the manifest impartiality of the Judge..... The whole Court was with Jotee Persaud from the first; nor could he have been absolved with more decisive triumph if the scene had been Southark instead of Agra, and the audience had been furnished by Sir William Molesworth's own constituency." The *Times* has been told through our Town Hall orators that the Judges of the Civil Courts in India, being the servants of Government, have not the smallest spark of independence, and that any opposition to the will of Government is sure to draw down its displeasure. We therefore request the great London Journal to mark and ponder on this fact, which has never yet been noticed by any of the papers at the Presidency, that the Judge who decided the case in the Agra Court against this persecuting Government, was immediately after promoted by that same Government to a seat on the bench of the highest Court in the country.

The *Times* has been misled by the outcry raised in India, that the prosecution had been commenced by Government with the view of evading the payment of its just dues. The Editor very naturally considers this as the one great commendatory feature of the case. The original prosecution may or may not have been a blunder; but the gravamen of the charge against Government is, that it commenced a criminal prosecution to escape a just claim. It had been most diligently propagated throughout this country and echoed in England, that Jotee Persaud had brought an action against Government for half a million sterling, and that Government met his demand by bringing a cross suit against him for perjury and forgery. The *Times* says, "Lord Dalhousie could have no justification in permitting an impenitent to escape the payment of a Bill..... The question is, whether the Indian Government to evade an application which was substantially just, even if partially strained, did not prefer counter charges wholly unsustainable by the received notions of equity, as well as the probable facts of the case?—whether they did not bring a suit against a troublesome creditor, which they would never have dreamt of bringing against an ordinary subject? and whether by this prostitution of their own law Courts to official convenience, they have not lowered the character of their rule and damaged the prospect of their dominion?" We trust to hear some immediate explanation of this serious charge, but we confess, that the unmistakable facts of the report, together with the almost universal concurrence of opinion, prevailing on the spot, appear next to incompatible with any possible justification of so egregious an act of oppression."

The *Times* will long since have learnt, from the columns of this journal, that Lord Dalhousie did not commit so atrocious an act of oppression, as to permit an impenitent to be brought to escape the payment of a Bill. At the risk of being vilified as the organ of Government, we applied to Mr. Gubbins for an abstract of the proceedings and the dates of

the various transactions, and these we at once published to the world. Not a whisper has been uttered against the accuracy of any of his facts or figures; they remain unimpeached. They at once demolished the whole fabric of calumny which had been built up with so much care and perseverance, and showed that it was Jotee Persaud who brought the cross action against Government, long after the criminal prosecution had been in progress. We were assailed with a degree of virulence to which even this journal had been a stranger, but it only served to show the importance of the fact which we were instrumental in promulgating for the first time, and the serious disappointment which was felt by the exonerated Government from this groundless charge, which, in the opinion of the *Times*, had "damaged the prospect of their dominion."

We perceive that Sir De Lary Evans, has been, in like manner, misled by the report, which was propagated regarding the cross suit, and has given notice of a motion in the House of Commons for a Committee of Enquiry on this subject. The real facts of the case would reach England a few days after the departure of the mail, and set both the *Times* and General Evans right on this point, and teach them to receive the statements of the Press in India in future with a little more caution.

**NEW MARRIAGE ACT FOR INDIA.**—The Mail just received informs us that the India Marriage Bill has been read a second time in the House of Lords, and has been printed with the view of being submitted, if necessary, to a Select Committee. It appears from the report of the debate that Lord Ellenborough offered some suggestions which were incorporated with the Bill before it was sent to press. The *London Gazette* of the 2d of July has published the whole of the proposed Act, though, as we naturally conclude, without Lord Ellenborough's emendations, which could not have reached Bombay at the time; but as they do not affect the principle of the Bill, we may conclude that the "Proposed Act" now before us is that which will become law without any material alterations before the end of the Session, and be brought into operation early in the next year throughout India.

We desire to offer the community in India, our cordial congratulations on the wise, liberal, and generous spirit in which the Act is drawn up. It is every thing that could have been desired. It provides the same securities in the case of all marriages solemnized among Christians in India, whether European or Native; and it gives the same validity to marriages performed by the ministers of all denominations, Episcopalians, Greeks, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Independents, and Baptists. We had been given to understand that the new Act, while it left the marriages solemnized by Clergymen or Missionaries of the Church of England, upon their present footing, was intended to force all those who were not members of that communion, to submit to a marriage performed by a secular Registrar, who might be a Collector, or a Judge, or a Post Master, or a Principal Sudder Ameen, and in a public Cutcherry, or at the Post Office, or at a private dwelling, and thus expose females to the indelicate gaze and libidinous remarks of the Amlahs, and create an invidious distinction between marriages solemnized by Missionaries of the Church Missionary or Propagation Societies, on the one side; and those of the Independent or Baptist, or other Dissenting Societies on the other. To say such an

assailable objection, and the Act itself must have become a dead letter from the beginning. We are happy to perceive that the Act which has, we trust, by this time become law, contains no such illiberal and degrading provisions.—But we had better at once give a general outline of the provisions of this admirable bill.

The Government of India is required to appoint "Registrars of marriages," for each district or town. In every case of marriage intended to be solemnized in India, one of the parties, required to give notice under his or her hand to the Registrar of the district, in which they have dwelt for not less than seven days, that a marriage is intended to be had between the parties, whose name, condition, rank or profession, age, dwelling place, and length of residence are to be specified in the schedule, as well as the place where the marriage is to be solemnized. This notice is to be entered in a "Marriage notice book" to be open to the inspection of all parties. The Registrar is to cause copies of such notices to be exhibited, or otherwise cause such notices to be published, in such manner as the Government of India may direct. Ten days after the entry of the notice, the Registrar will grant a certificate, provided that no lawful impediment according to the law of England be shown to the satisfaction of the Registrar, why such certificate should not issue. The issue of the Registrar's certificate may be forbidden in writing by any one who considers that there is an impediment to the marriage. The father of any party under 21, the party not being a widower or widow, or, if the father be dead, the guardian or guardians of the party, or, in particular cases, the mother may give consent to the marriage, and such consent is required by the Act for the marriage of such party under 21, except every person whose consent to a marriage is so required, is authorized to forbid the issue of the Registrar's certificate; these objections the Registrar will investigate and dispose of. Before the certificate can issue, one of the parties intending marriage, must make oath or affirmation, or declaration, "that he or she believeth that there is no impediment of kindred or alliance, or other lawful hindrance to the marriage." Any person is at liberty also to enter a caveat with the Registrar against the issue of certificate, and no certificate will issue till the Registrar has examined the nature of the caveat, and is satisfied that it ought not to impede the marriage. But persons veniously entering a caveat are liable to costs and damages. After the issue of the certificate, the marriage may be solemnized in the place mentioned in it, according to such form or ceremony as the parties may see fit to adopt, and, as a matter of course, by any minister who they choose, but within the hours to be fixed by future regulations. It appears to be the intention of the Act that the Registrar should always be present at the marriage ceremony. It is also indispensably necessary that in some part of that ceremony, the parties should solemnly declare that they know no lawful impediment, why they should not be joined in matrimony, and that each of the parties should say to each other:

"I call upon these persons here present to witness that I A. B. do take thee C. D. to be my lawful wedded wife, [or husband]" or words to that effect. After the solemnization of the marriage, the Registrar present is forthwith to register the marriage in a "Marriage Register book, according to the Schedule: the entry of the marriage is to be signed by the person by or before whom it was solemnized, by the Re-

testator, and by the parties married, and it is to be attested by two witnesses. The Registrar present at the solemnization, will be entitled to such fees as may be fixed by the regulations of Government. Copies of the entries in the marriage register books will then be transmitted to the Secretary to Government, who will forward them to the India House, from whence they will be sent to the Registrar General of Marriages, Births, and Deaths in London, and incorporated with the General Register of the Empire.

The only change which the Act appears to make in regard to marriages celebrated according to the rites of the Church of England, is, that the Registrar's certificate will supersede the Surrogate's Licence, and that the registration will be made in the Books of the Registrar, instead of those of the Church, in which the marriage was celebrated; those records will, therefore, cease from the passing of the Act.

Every marriage solemnized under this Act "is to be good and cognizable in like manner as marriages, celebrated before this Act, according to the rites of the Church of England." And "in order to relieve the minds of all her Majesty's subjects from any doubt concerning the validity of marriages heretofore solemnized in India by persons not in holy orders, it is declared and enacted that all such marriages, if not otherwise invalid, shall be deemed and held valid in law to all intents and purposes."

Such are the general provisions of this Act. It establishes the same law for all sects and denominations of Christians in India. They are all equally bound to give notice of their intention to marry to the Registrar of the district or division, and one of the parties is required to make oath before him, that he knows no lawful impediment, why they should not be joined in matrimony. The Registrar after due notice, gives a certificate to the parties, and they are then entitled to be married by any minister or person whom they select, in the place they have chosen. No marriage is valid without the presence of the Registrar, whether it be celebrated in an Episcopal Church or a Dissenting Chapel, and he attends on the part of the state to witness and attest the ceremony. All marriages are to be entered in his Register Book, and copies from this Register are to be transmitted to that grand repository of "Domestic Occurrences," over which Major Gihlan presides at Somerset House. Thus a member of the Church of England, in Calcutta, who wishes to be joined in the bonds of holy wedlock, will certify to the Registrar that he intends to be married at St. Peter's Cathedral, or St. John's Church, and a Dissenter that he selects Union Chapel, or the Bow Bazar Chapel. Thither the Registrar attends him, and records the important event, and the marriage thus celebrated, is to all intents and purposes as valid as all marriages, hitherto solemnized according to the rites of the Church of England.

We shall reserve our remarks on minor points for another opportunity. We have now only to remark, that the Act is not to affect the marriages of Mahomedans or Hindoos, and the Governor General may exempt from the operation of this Act, "the marriages in India of any person, whose marriages by reason of the religious opinions or usages, prevailing among the people of India, the Governor General may see fit so to exempt;" but the Act is strictly applicable to all Christians of whatever section of the Christian church; and we are very much mistaken if it is not hailed as an Act of great and commendable liberality.

THE SECRECY OF THE COURT OF DIRECTORS.

We have now received the comments of all our contemporaries at the different Presidencies on our remarks regarding the refusal of the Court of Directors to grant permission to search the records of Government before 1820, in reference to a work in which we are engaged. Those comments have been in some instances influenced rather by the unfriendly feeling of the Editors towards this journal, than by a reference to the broad and important question of publicity we were anxious to bring under discussion. Some of our contemporaries have fallen into the error of attributing the unfavourable view we took of the character and the policy of those who reside in Leadenhall Street, to a feeling of personal disappointment. They appear to forget that we have alluded to the same opinions, and have published them a dozen times in this journal. What we only alluded to, in the instance alluded to, to the currency of those opinions. We have not pretended the secrecy in which the Government have shrouded all its proceedings, as a necessary or even a desirable part of the character of the Government, but as that of a pure and unmitigated, but mild and generally equitable despotism. In this definition of its character, however, we do not claim the merit of originality. Macaulay long since thus designated the Government of India, and so generally is this fact admitted, all those who take an interest in Indian affairs, that we find the Government of Ceylon described as a mild despotism by one of the foremost men of the liberal party in England, in the most recent debate on Mr. Baillie's motion.

Though the Government of India is necessarily, from the very circumstances of the natives, among whom there are not the elements of a representative Government, a pure despotism, yet it is an Anglo-Saxon despotism, acting under the auspices of the enlightened age, in which all idea of the "mysteries" of Government has been exploded, and every thing connected with its measures is open to public observation and discussion. The complaint against the Court is, that it does not govern in accordance with the liberal principles of the age; that while all the proceedings of the Government of England, at home and in its colonies, are constantly subject to public inspection, it is the perpetual aim of the Court of Directors to throw a veil of profound secrecy around all their counsels and measures. We do not here allude to the denial of statistical documents by the Bengal Government. That Government, aware of the sensibilities of the Court on the subject of publicity, acted with a wise prudence in refusing access to them. The only path of safety for the Deputy Governor is to lock the doors of all the archives, and receive the key for the Court. This statistical question will soon be corrected, even if it has not been already rectified. In an age of statistical enquiry, like the present, the refusal of such documents might endanger the dominion of the Court. But we allude to the administrative measures of Government, down to the minutest occurrence, which it is the principle of the Court to keep as secret as possible. Secrecy, to use an orientalism which some of the Directors may understand, appears to be the *dharm* of the India House; its permanent, and inflexible policy, which yields only to the mandates of Parliament. We could name more than one Director who, when in India, lamented this foolish fondness for secrecy, as though the India House was a Free mason's lodge, but who have no sooner breathed the atmosphere of Leadenhall Street, than they have fallen in with its prevail-

ing maxims, and at once adopted the same monomania, and become as great advocates for mystery as their seniors. If there were anything in the public measures of the Directors of which they had reason to be ashamed, we should be able to account for this feeling. But, as far as we have had an opportunity of judging of their proceedings and their principles, they appear to be actuated by the highest feelings of political honor, and by a just sense of the responsibilities of their position. On almost every occasion, they appear to manifest an honest and sincere desire to regulate their proceedings by the principles of justice and equity, and to adopt only those measures which they could submit with confidence for the approval of honourable and impartial men. If cases of questionable equity or policy have been occasionally brought before them, they have forced the exception, and not the rule. We are aware that there are certain venerable prejudices and partialities which have long been domesticated at the India House, and of which the old serangas cannot appreciate the impropriety. True, they already, as yet many of the old serangas may, we may safely leave time to deal with those which remain. But the general proceedings of the Government, in London and in India, are from their honest and enlightened character, generally calculated to reflect credit on the national character—yet all these measures and all other measures are most diligently and zealously concealed from the public, and the disclosure of them by any of the functionaries of the state is severely repressed, and condemned in no measured terms. There is a morbid sensitiveness of publicity at the India House which the Directors cannot shake off. They seem, in fact, to entertain the same intense aversion to the exposure of their public affairs, which our countrymen at home so constantly manifest to the inquisitive enquiries of the Income tax gatherer.

This is not the mode in which the greatest foreign dependency of the mighty Saxon empire of England ought to be governed. If there be any thing which public policy requires to be concealed, at the time, from the public, let it be withheld, and the public will be as well satisfied with the denial, as they are when her Majesty's Ministers deem it necessary to decline the communication of papers, or information, which might create embarrassment. But the measures, the proceedings, and the motives of the Government of India, ought to be as patent to the public as those of the Government of England. We cannot ask more, and we ought not to be satisfied with less. This extreme sensitiveness does the Court the greatest injury. A large portion of the errors and blunders which are circulated in England against the Government of India, may be traced up to this source. The evil has been magnified ten fold, by the emancipation of the Press in India. That Press, by whatever opprobrious name it may be called, exercises a large and increasing influence on public opinion, and it is a matter of importance to the character of Government that it should have easy access to the most authentic sources of information regarding public measures. But as long as the Court consider it an achievement when they can succeed in keeping accurate intelligence of events from the public, through the medium of the Press, the Press is effectually precluded from becoming an auxiliary of good Government, and its tremendous power only serves to damage the reputation of Government. That information regarding public measures which the press is at present able to obtain, and only occasionally, by stealth, it ought at-

ways to be allowed to obtain, by fair and above board means. The whole public service in India trembles at the idea of being detected in conveying any intelligence to the press, however interesting to the public, and however beneficial to the public service. We have scores of letters from officers of high official distinction, who have given us valuable and important facts, but always with the strictest injunction that their names might in no case be permitted to transpire, because, as they said, the Court of Directors were known to be so extremely sensitive on this particular subject. To such a degree is this feeling of jealousy carried, and so deep is the alarm felt in Leadenhall Street lest anything connected with the public business of the country, past, present, or future, should transpire in India, that they cannot venture to trust the discretion of their own most confidential servants abroad. They will freely allow access—but only under their own vigilant eye, to some of the records of the India House, and they take no little credit to themselves for this concession, but they will not entrust any of their Governments abroad with the same control over the public records; and as these Governments have no particular partiality for the peculiar kind of secrecy which so often emanates from the Court, they are constrained to refuse access to all the public archives, and refer all applicants to Leadenhall Street.

**MR. THOMY PRINSEP AND THE EAST INDIA QUALIFICATION FOR PARLIAMENT.**—Mr. Thomy Prinsep has stood again for Harwich, and has lost his election by a small majority, which placed the liberal Mr. Crawford in Parliament. It is difficult to account for the pertinacity with which Mr. Prinsep grasps at a seat in a Parliament which is now on its last legs, when he must know that, even if successful, he will again be subject to the trouble and expense of a fresh election before a twelvemonth has expired. Still more singular is it that he should pursue this phantom by identifying himself with the notorious boroughmonger, who has contrived to obtain a preponderating influence in no fewer than four boroughs. From the confidence with which Mr. Prinsep again comes forward, it appears evident that he has been able immediately to create a qualification, independently of his pension from the Annuity Fund. Mr. Prinsep's rejection by the Committee, though not without annoyance to him personally, has, however, been of the most essential service to all those who are, or may be, connected with India. The objection which was raised to his admission as a member, on the ground that the *corpus* of the Fund on which he depended for his qualification, was in India, has been the means of placing this monstrous anomaly in a prominent light, and has led to the introduction of a Bill to remove it. The Bill passes, we believe, under the title of the Colonial Qualification Bill. We see that it was read a second time on the 20th of May, and carried by a majority of 72 to 31. It may, therefore, be considered quite safe. Before the close of the Session, it will doubtless become law, and then, every Civilian who has retired on his Civil Annuity, and any one possessed of property in India, whether landed, or funded, will be able to obtain a seat in the House with the same facility as if that property was situated within the four seas of Britain.

THE TORRINGTON AFFAIR has now been brought to a termination, after a long and arduous investigation of two years by the House of

Commons. On Tuesday, the 27th of May, Mr. Baillie, the Chairman of the Committee of Enquiry, moved a series of resolutions condemning the punishments inflicted during the disturbances in Ceylon, of the conduct of Lord Torrington, the late Governor, and of that of Earl Grey, in signifying her Majesty's approbation of his Lordship's administration. After an animated discussion in which Lord Torrington's measures were severely censured by men of different political parties, by Mr. Baillie, Mr. Ker Seymour, Mr. Hume, Sir F. Thesiger, Mr. Gladstone, and Mr. D'Israeli, and defended by Mr. Sergeant Murphy, the professional advocate of the Governor, Lord Grosvenor, whose travels through India have emboldened him to speak on Indian matters, Mr. Roebuck, Sir James Hogg, Col. Dunne, Mr. Hawes, the Attorney General, Lord Hotham, and Lord John Russell, the vote of censure, negatived by a majority of 80, the Government's favour being 202, and the total against it 282. The total number of members assembled on the occasion was 482, whereas it is difficult to imagine a House when any subject connected with India is brought forward. The Government on this occasion was evidently not to the importance of the transaction, nor to the importance of the subject, nor to the impulse of the members, but to the fact that the attack was in reality one upon the character and proceedings of the Colonial office.

All parties appear to have admitted that Lord Torrington was not open to censure for adopting so vigorous a measure as that of proclaiming martial law. If we estimate the character and importance of the insurrection by the ease with which it was extinguished, on so small a demonstration of our power, it would appear that the proclamation of martial law was altogether redundant. We, in India, are accustomed to deal with larger and more tumultuous assemblages of natives, whom we find it easy to disperse by the ordinary police, or by a very inconsiderable body of troops. But, it was not certain at the time of the outbreak, that the insurrection did not embrace the most extensive combinations, and that it might not entail as troublesome and expensive a war as that which formerly desolated the island, in such circumstances the exertion of a vigor beyond the occasion was highly excusable. We must not forget that if the matter had turned out to be more serious than it did, and the insurrection had been matured into a rebellion through Lord Torrington's leniency, he would have incurred much more severe censure than he has now been visited with, and that from the liberal party themselves.

It has always appeared to us, that Lord Torrington was not the person responsible for the atrocities which are said to have been practised. We have been accustomed to believe, that whenever Martial law has been proclaimed, the country is made over to the Military authorities, from whom it is withdrawn as soon as they have succeeded in restoring tranquillity. As long as their authority continues thus to be supreme and paramount, it is they who are answerable for the exercise of it, and not the Civil Government. If it should appear on good evidence, to be exercised with unnecessary severity, it is the duty of the Government immediately to revoke the proclamation of Martial law, and restore the country to the ordinary administration of the laws. Neither is it, in our opinion, the business of the Governor, to interfere in any measure with the proceedings of the Military authorities during the continuance of Martial law; it is rather his duty to leave the

entire responsibility of those proceedings on those to whom the military occupation of the country has been temporarily entrusted. The strongest anomaly in these proceedings appears to be the absence of the Commander-in-Chief of the Island from the scene of disturbances. It seems to us idle to ensure Government for having appointed Colonel Drought instead of Colonel Baybrooke to administer Martial law. The Government should have made over the disturbed districts to the General-in-Chief, and armed him with the power of military law; and it was the business of the General to nominate his subordinate officers, and, as a necessary consequence, to take on himself the responsibility of their proceedings.

After all, the great error of Lord Torrington's proceedings appears to consist in having continued the exercise of Martial law for two months, after the necessity of so sharp a remedy had manifestly ceased, and for this there is no justification. Still, considering that he had already been relieved of the Government of the Island, all further prosecution of the matter should have been dropped. If Mr. Baillie and his friends regarded Lord Torrington's continuance as Governor, as the great obstacle to the well being of the Island, they should have been satisfied with his recall. When they persisted in demanding a vote of censure on him from Parliament after he had retired to private life, they laid themselves open to the charge of being actuated by vindictive feelings, and we are by no means sorry to find, that the motion has been negatived. At the same time, it is easy to perceive, that this Parliamentary enquiry into the administration of the Island, and the great interest which has been excited on the subject, in the most influential circles in England, cannot fail to exercise an auspicious influence on its future destinies.

**IS GOLAB SINGH DEAD OR NOT?**—This is the question which is at present of the deepest interest to every section of the Indian public, and, strange to say, neither journalists nor their correspondents appear to be able to give the slightest reliable information on the subject. The story made its first appearance in the columns of the *Mofussile* in the shape of a report that the Maharajah of Kashmere, Golab Singh, and several British officers had been murdered by a Nephew of the former, who had roused the Khalsa, and defied the British Government. This report was to a great extent corroborated by the *Hurkaru*, but the *Lakore Chronicle* which arrived the same day had not the most distant allusion to the subject, and the funds, which had fluctuated in Calcutta, recovered their buoyancy, and the report was set down as a "newspaper tale." Then came the *Delhi Gazette*, who ridiculed the story, but admitted the existence of reports, and then the *Mofussile*, but without one solitary word upon the subject, a circumstance in itself suspicious. At length as the rumour appeared to be dying away, the *Eastern Star* declared upon "good authority," that Golab Singh and four British officers had been murdered, and that among these officers, was Col. Verbury of the 83rd Dragoons. The *Hurkaru* of the 14th instant following up this report, published a letter from Agra, of the 7th instant, declaring, that intelligence from different points in the Punjab confirmed the report of the murders, and added the name of Lieut. Timbrell to that of Col. Verbury as the victims of the insurgents. Lastly, the *Lakore Chronicle* of the 6th contains an article, formally denying the truth of the rumour, but written in a style that almost inclined us to be-



have it to have been published with the direct, and under the circumstances excusable, object of re-assuring the public, while the writer was at the same time not certain that the stories might not be true.

The story is *prima facie* highly probable. Jawahir Singh, the nephew of Gola Singh, who is supposed to be the author of these atrocities, is a son of Dhyau Singh, the old premier of the Punjab, and has been for some time at feud with his uncle. Nothing is more natural than to suppose him influenced by a desire to reconquer the country, so long held by his father, and the murder of his uncle is an ordinary episode in the domestic relations of Oriental Princes. Another strong circumstance, in favor of the credibility of the story, is the murder of the British officers, as these Asiatics invariably open a revolt by rendering reconciliation or peace with the British Government, impossible, by the murder of its servants. They did so in Delhi, they did so in Multan, and they may have pursued the same atrocious policy in Cashmere. Jawahir Singh is, moreover, exceedingly popular among the Sikhs, and there may yet be many discontented chiefs and officers among the Khalsas, who would gladly rally round the son of one of their old chieftains, for another hand to hand struggle with their Feringhee rulers. They would doubtless imagine, that although they had been seven times defeated in the plain, the hills and passes of Cashmere would give them another and a fairer chance. These, of course, are but suppositions, and the whole story may be as groundless, as that of the death of Doet Mahomed, but the rumour is a sufficient indication of the train of circumstances, which is likely to follow the death of Gola Singh. Neither the Board of Administration nor the Government of India can any longer shut their eyes to the fact, that they may at any moment find themselves in the thick of the third Punjab war, and it behooves them, if this rumour be false, to ascertain with the utmost accuracy which circumstances will admit, the number of guns, and the available force possessed by Gola Singh. A winter campaign may yet chance to be forced upon us.

Since these paragraphs were written we have received intelligence, from a source which may be safely relied on, that the rumour, though general throughout the Punjab, is without foundation.

**A NATIVE CONVERT.**—Although we have a general opinion, that the great work of Indian evangelization, should proceed slowly, and with as little newspaper parade as possible, we should ill acquit ourselves of the duty of chronicling the progress of public opinion in this country, did we omit to record the conversion of Baboo Gyanendra Mohan Tagore. That gentleman was received into the Christian community, according to the forms of the Episcopal Church, by the Reverend Krishna Mohan Banerjee, on Friday, the 11th instant. He is the only son of Baboo Prosumno Koomar Tagore, the well known Government pleader in the Sudder Court, and is said to be a man of great reading and a reflective character. He is, moreover, upwards of twenty-five years of age, so that the bigotted portion of the Native community have no opportunity of promulgating their ordinary fables about the undue influence exercised by the Missionaries. He has scarcely ever held any communication with them, and his convictions are said to have been gradually maturing themselves in his own mind for the long space of ten years. His wife, who died a short time since, is understood to have

received instruction from him in the great principles of the Christian faith, and to have died professing her reliance upon Christ as her Saviour. An anecdote is in circulation respecting her profession of faith, which reflects the highest credit upon Krishna Mohan Banerjee, but as it has not yet appeared in any of the journals, it might be indelicate to give it publicity. Under ordinary circumstances, the new convert would have been at once thrown from a position of influence to the greatest poverty, but it is rumored that at the last moment, the feelings of nature prevailed over those of the Hindoo, and that his father was generously induced to make him a competent and even liberal provision. There have been many converts from the upper ranks of Hindoo Society, but this is the first instance, we believe, in which sacerdotal rank has been combined with wealth, and it has created a proportionate sensation. The old orthodox, conservative Hindoos have indeed had much to startle them of late. First, there was the great meeting at which the most orthodox spoke out boldly of the necessity of lightening the chain of caste; then came the rapid series of conversions among the respectable classes, through the Missionaries of the London Society, and now, one of the "Baboos" whose pedigree, family, and fortunes are intimately associated with whatever is distinguished in Hindoo Society in Calcutta, has severed himself from the ancient creed. Nor must we omit to mention the progress of Mr. Bethune's Female School, which has to all appearance fairly outlived the clamour excited by the party hostile to all improvement. One of the most influential Natives in Calcutta, Debendronath Tagore, has added his own daughter to the long list of Eighty female children already receiving instruction in the Institution, and the late Kalsoo Krishna Bahadur, who occupies the most prominent position in Hindoo society in the metropolis, has accepted the office of its President. There are evidently signs abroad, though scarcely perceptible, except to a few of the most intelligent of the native gentry, that a great movement is silently in progress in Native society, especially among the new generation. The great reaction against Christianity, which followed the triumphs of the first Missionaries, would appear almost to have spent itself.

**THE MYSTERIES OF CHERRA.**—We owe many apologies to Mr. Gibson for having delayed the publication of his reply to Mr. Harry Inglis, as it reached us a fortnight ago, after the journal had gone to press, and last week was overlooked by inadvertence. It affords a most satisfactory answer to all the allegations of his great opponent, and explains the circumstances under which pecuniary demands were raised against him after he had given evidence unfavorable to Mr. Inglis before Mr. Dunbar. It gives a flat denial to the charge of having boasted of his relationship to the *Friend of India*, which was evidently brought forward as a set-off to the fact of Mr. Inglis's relationship to Col. Lister, which is the source of that unbounded influence he exercises throughout the Hills. Mr. Gibson's disclosures regarding the proceedings of the Assistant's Court of Cherra are not calculated to raise Lister. Cave in the opinion either of the public or of Government, while his recent condemnation of Mr. Gibson, in the trumpety libel case, to pay costs to the extent of 500 Rs. of which no less a sum than 400 Rs. goes to Mr. Inglis's mootress, is a measure which needs no comment.

THE BAGO-BANAR. Translated by Duncanson.

*Forbes, E. L. D.*—We have been furnished with a copy of this translation in the shape of a very handsome, thin, octavo volume, and we can confidently recommend it to all those gentlemen of the Civil and Military Services who are about to undergo the nervous ordeal of an examination. We have not time to compare the translation before us with the original, but we can assure our readers that it is a sufficient guarantee of its accuracy, while the perfect elegance of its diction, and the questionable taste of some of its stories give it the genuine Oriental stamp. We cannot, however, withhold our regret that Dr. Forbes should expend, and we may say, waste his great attainments as an Oriental Linguist upon such works as these. Except as a critic for students they are of little or no practical utility; while as pictures of Oriental Life, and modes of thought, they are immeasurably inferior to the Arabian Nights Entertainment, and indeed scarcely equal to Morier's *Hajji Baba*. There are vast fields of oriental lore still entirely unexplored, and Sir Henry Elliott's *India* or Mohammedan Histories, is a sufficient evidence of the valuable contributions to literature which may be obtained from those sources. Dr. Forbes is fully competent to give us works of equal merit, and we hope he will yet accept our recommendation.

## WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, JULY 10.

—The *Citizen* states, that the firm of Dunbar and Co., the English ship-builders, have contracted for the construction of four new vessels of the first class at Moula. The repeal of the Navigation Laws promises to make the fortune of Moula, and the task would not seem excessive to an extensive and profitable branch of commerce.

—The demand for European sailors, consequent upon the resumption of the Insurance offices not to insure vessels manned by lascars, has increased the rate of wages in the Port of Calcutta, until Captains appear inclined to take men upon any terms. A considerable number of sailors have gone to press ready to work their passage home, at the low rates fixed by their articles, and one sailor remarked that "he never had better living in his life than in the House of Correction." Another man who had already had one voyage to Europe, and was now on board, says his Captain would pay him all his wages during the time he had been in prison, and give him about ten pieces of grog, and the Captain was obliged to consent to his terms.

—The *Bombay Times* republishes from the *Fort St. George Gazette*, a list of the deaths among the European officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Honourable Company's forces, reported to the military department of that Presidency during the month of May. The number of officers is Ten, four of whom died in Europe, one at sea, and five in India. The number of casualties among the non-commissioned officers is only Eight, and that of privates only two, and it is remarkable that only two of the non-commissioned officers and privates were above the age of thirty.

—A correspondent of the *Bombay Times* writing from Kattwar, notices the death of "His Highness the Nawab of Joonshing, which took place on the 16th June." He is said to have left no real wealth, and will be succeeded by his younger brother.

—The ravages of cholera at Kurrachee appear to have been of late unusually severe. A correspondent of the *Bombay Telegraph* and *Courier* says, that 201 persons, including 110 children, died there within a short time, but he does not give the exact period. Of this number, 223 died without any medical treatment, as their friends objected to bring their cases to the notice of the apothecary. Thirty-three fatal cases occurred in one regiment alone, but the Horse Artillery stationed in the same place entirely escaped.

The *Bombay Telegraph* and *Courier* gives the following rich specimen of a dunning letter:—"I am sorry to find that all my letters to you remain unanswered, indeed I cannot for a moment believe that you have so completely mislaid them. I beg leave to assure you that a thing of debt is a very new one to other world, and man never reflects from this and it (the world) without discharging it, may I therefore most respectfully beg that you will consider and make your generous mind and remit me the amount, at any rate and without delay Rupees fifteen and your reply by return of the post, I expect a favourable one with an advice of a remittance." Our contemporary adds to this the following paragraph:—"Speaking of duns, a creditor of the piously pious kind once wrote to an Indian officer, begging, in the gentlest manner in the world, to remind him that his 'little Bill' had been 'long standing.' Determining not to be outdone in civility one military Chesterfield replied:—'Then pray allow your 'little Bill' to sit down; having been standing so long, the poor thing must be tired.'"

















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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDOSTAN," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that in the Mails for Suva, and the intermediate Ports (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel "Hindostan" will be closed at this Office, on Thursday, the 27th of June, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Friday, the 28th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kedgeeree, in time to reach the Steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the "Hindostan" can be received after 2 P. M. of that date.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA ROHMAT.  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 1st of July the ensuing month of September for the departure of the next Steamer therefrom, with a Mail Bag Suva. Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Tuesday, the 10th of June, and that the first set of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Monday, the 11th Idem.

J. R. BRANTON BERNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, the 10th July, 1861.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the Friend of India begs to acknowledge the following Donations:  
From A. Friend, C.S. Rs. 25, and from E. W. H. Co. Rs. 10, for the Church Mission in the Punjab.

INDIA IN THE ORIENTAL PALACE.—Last week we received a manuscript copy of the report submitted to the Government of Bengal, by the Central Committee of Art and Industry in Calcutta, on the conclusion of their labours, and although it is chiefly occupied with naked statements of the cost of the various contributions, it contains several facts of considerable interest. The Court of Directors, influenced, it is said, by the late Sir Archibald Galway, but not the less we hope, by a higher motive, resolved on the first announcement of the great design entertained by Prince Albert, to give it every aid in their power, and allotted for the purpose a sum of One hundred thousand pounds. By many this sum was considered extravagant even for such a purpose, and the event has proved that a far less amount was required. The tributary Indian Princes of every rank, from the King of Oude, and the Maharajah of Travancore, to the Rajah of Tonk and a nameless potentate from Rajpootana, have been induced by the Political Agents to unlock their treasures, and the result has been a collection of such magnificence as not only to throw the Company's private purchases into the shade, but to eclipse in splendour even those of European kingdoms. The financial statement of the contributions from Bengal fully bears out this assertion:—

Contributions from Native Princes,	Rs.
Ditto, private individuals,	2,53,210 0 0
Present ditto ditto,	11,575 2 0
Collection from the N. W. Provinces,	18,925 7 0
Ditto Ditto Lower Provinces,	15,867 1 6
	36,825 0 4

Co. B. Rs. 3,51,404 10 10

The contributions from the Princes, are rich in that gorgeous magnificence so long supposed to be peculiar to the East. Every variety of jewel, from the crown of the king of Oude to the rings of the Delhi jewellers, has found a place, and every kind of military weapon,

from the jewelled scimitars found in the Lahore Treasury, to the richly inlaid swords of the Rajah of Ulwar, has been presented. The throne upon which the Queen sat when she opened the Exhibition in the splendid spectacle of the 1st of May was, we believe, a contribution from the Maharajah of Travancore. Nevertheless, these jewels, and gilded horse trappings, and inlaid sabres would have given but a false idea of the Indian Empire, but for the exertions of the Central Committee. They perceived at once in what points the native contributions were likely to fail, and they addressed themselves to the task of giving a fair representation of the industrial resources and peculiarities of India. The result was that splendid collection which we chrouched just after its departure, and which, though far inferior in money value to the gifts of the Princes, was far better adapted to the noble design of making the English manufacturer and artisan acquainted with the capabilities and the wants of India. How the efforts of the Committee were appreciated at home we need not inform our readers. The press has been unanimous in its praise of the "magnificent Indian collection."

We cannot quote the articles in which our paper gives a detailed account of Indian vegetable products, and another of Indian textile arts, but we extract one paragraph from the *Times* as to the universality of the collection:—

"These contributions are literally the offerings of the world. From all quarters of the universe has the Exhibition attracted its treasures. The only King in India sent his Crown, the crown of his eldest son, and the various of his Princes have sent their treasures. The Hindostan resides a remote and unpoliticized community engaged in mining for iron. These primitive people have a worship and temple of their own. The temple contained a lamp fashioned with rude ingenuity and regarded as parading of the sanctity of the place. It was begged for 'the Exhibition,' and willingly surrendered to be transported 10,000 miles for the edification of Londoners at home. It has been remarked that the Indian compartment attracts a large proportion of visitors, but we do not believe the circumstance is traceable to mere idle curiosity, or even to the enticements of gold and silver hoards. The fact is that no officer or servant of the company itself ever saw so much of India's treasures in the whole course of his service as he may now see in a single morning. Lahore is as far from Madras as Turkey from Middlesex, nor is there much more communication between the two. For the first time the riches of Bengal and Bombay, of Rajasthan and Mysore, have been brought into contact, and set up to be held up to the gaze in Hyde-park. The East India Company possess a 'Museum' of their own in Leadenhall Street, which has for years received the consignments of the liberal and curious. Yet the whole contents of this collection would make but a single section of the show which has been extemporized under a glass case at Knightsbridge."

This paragraph alone ought to compensate the Committee for all the trouble they have had with Sub-Committees, some of whom could not be made to understand what was wanted, and others who would not take an interest in the matter, or with even the third class—the most exacting of all—who, when they had collected rare or valuable articles, allowed them to be spoiled, or from careless packing. India has, through their exertions, for the first time in the history of the world, been made intelligible to the Arabian Nights gorgeousness of her princes, and the Irish squalor of her rural inhabitants.

The report before us presents very few features of interest beyond the figured statements given above, but we are happy to see that the Committee have given to their subordinate off-

icers that commendation which their activity and zeal have so well deserved. To the energy and knowledge of Mr. Dowlans, in particular, no small portion of the general success of the enterprise was owing, and we are happy to perceive from the following sentence that his exertions have been justly appreciated. "The Committee have also to record with much satisfaction, their sense of the excellent service rendered on this occasion by their Secretary's Assistant Mr. A. M. Dowlans,—of the able and indefatigable exertions of this gentleman and his regular and methodical habits of business, to which the records bear witness, the Committee cannot speak too highly, and they desire to recommend him most strongly to the favourable consideration of the Government."

## THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.

The Mail of the 7th June brought us the report of the Twenty-first half-yearly Meeting of this Company, and it must be allowed to be highly satisfactory both to the shareholders who receive the dividends, and the public in general who contribute them. We regret that we cannot republish the report, as it is far too lengthy for our limited space, but the following synopsis will be sufficient to indicate what the Company have done and are doing. First, as our readers are already aware, they have promised to start an extra monthly steamer from Calcutta to England, on the 20th of every alternate month, beginning with August next. This steamer will call at Madras, Galle, and Aden, and will meet at the latter port another steamer which is to be despatched from Bombay on the 1st of every alternate month, beginning with September. It will then be met at Alexandria by a third steamer, which will also leave Southampton on the 1st of September. They have thus at once occupied the line which the Eastern Steam Navigation Company announced their intention to fill up, and this Association must either retire at once from the field, or come into direct, and severe competition. The Directors do not, however, expect that this arrangement will, for the present, prove profitable, but they are willing to sustain a loss, which cannot be very considerable, and which will "show the desire as well as the ability of the Company to meet the wants of the intercourse as they may become developed."

The meaning of this exceedingly diplomatic sentence is, that the P. and O. Company are determined not to leave their opponents a single line upon which to establish themselves without competition, and as this spirit is as agreeable to the public as to the Company, we shall be happy to see their intentions carried out. The reader will probably not feel any great interest in the quarrel between the Company and the Consul at Shanghai, and he is already acquainted with the success of the Chinese line; we pass on, therefore, to the steps which have been taken to increase the speed, and remedy the inconveniences of the voyage to England. In this department, also, the Directors are enabled to record an equal degree of progress. They have expended a sum said to amount to £27,000 in two years, in introducing improvements into the *Eipon*, *Oriental*, and *Hindostan*, and the last two steamers

during four consecutive voyages, averaged more than ten nautical miles per hour, thus "making the voyage in eight days less than the time stipulated in the Mail contract." This, and better, will do. The last argument, however, is worth little, as that contract was made at a time when Steam Navigation was in its babyhood, and now that it is in its infancy, no Minister in his senses would renew it on the same terms.

The pace in the Mediterranean has always been good, and is rapidly improving under the salutary influence of competition, while the transit through Egypt, hitherto the worst part of the route, will shortly become the easiest. The Directors have received official information from the Pacha himself, that a Railway through Egypt will be immediately commenced under Mr. Stephenson, and finished in about two years. It is intended, we believe, to extend it the whole distance from Alexandria to Suez, via Cairo, and not to stop short at the modern capital, as was at first rumored. An agent for the Pacha, Nubar Bey, is already in England, with full powers to conclude contracts for the material required. Meanwhile, a new steamer has been put upon the Nile, with sleeping accommodation for a hundred passengers; a most important improvement, if we may trust the tales told by travelers on the subject. At present, we hear, the top of a table in the principal Cabin is the coveted resting place, and when the vessel is full, every body's shins are kicked by every body else's boots in a manner decidedly the reverse of pleasant. A resolution was unanimously passed at the meeting expressing the gratitude of the Company to the Pacha for the great interest he had always displayed in the transit, and the great expense to which he had voluntarily subjected himself in improving its arrangements. Lastly, the Directors take up the question of the insufficient accommodation, bad provisions, and worse wines said to be provided on board their vessels, and here they break down, as they always have done, and always will do, till the inconveniences complained of are remedied. They have nothing to say in answer to the general charges, except that they are brought by "young gentlemen just escaped from school, who think it manly to take the first opportunity they may have had for shewing fastidiousness and discontent with every thing." The shareholders having just breakfasted on provisions professionally cooked, off-unexceptionable white table cloths, and in a state of the most genial complacency with their Eight per cent. dividend, received this statement with "cheers and laughter." Doubtless it was sufficiently witty to extort a laugh from well-fed men, but, unfortunately, it was "distinguished by a great amount of truth." This Dr. Beattie, who made the assertion, seemed to feel, for he added with reference to the memorial signed by some of the first men in Indian Society, and headed by a British Peer, "I believe, a late complaint regarding table supplies, on which much stress was laid in some quarters, having a considerable list of signatures, and headed by that of a noble Lord, lately travelling in India, will be found to have its origin in motives far different from those ostensibly put forth, namely, with the view of creating and keeping up a feeling of discontent with our Company for the purpose of paving the way for another." Lord Grovernor, and Mr. Higginson, the Governor of the Mauritius, are therefore, distinctly accused of having sanctioned false statements for the benefit of a Company, whose name they have probably never heard of! Bah.

With this exception, as we said at first, the report is exceedingly satisfactory, and the Company is evidently in possession of pecuniary resources, which render any attempt at competition almost hopeless. Besides the Reserve Fund of £400,000, which is of itself almost sufficient to renew their fleet, they have £200,000 of capital not yet called up, and are enabled at any time to raise £500,000 more upon debentures. They have, therefore, nearly a million and a half sterling, ready for any purpose to which it may be profitably applied, and this is quite sufficient to maintain their position for years to come. We do not, we confess, think they have much to fear from the new Company, but we know that that body deserves the deep gratitude of the community in India, for having procured for them improvements which they would not otherwise have expected until the renewal of the contract. We cannot close our remarks more appropriately than with the expression of one of the Directors: "Their position may be considered as invulnerable, so long as they make that position subservient to the public interests by ministering to the public wants and convenience more efficiently and more economically than any new company can possibly do."

THE CIVIL ANNUITY FUND.—We did not intend to return to this subject, which is only of sectional interest, and has been sufficiently discussed in our columns, but, we have been requested to republish a letter signed Q, which appeared last week in the *Larkara*, and contains every thing which can possibly be said on the other side of the question, and is moreover written with all that clearness and force which is characteristic of the author. We have transferred it to our columns, and now proceed to offer a brief comment on its most important points.

The writer says, "it is most absurd to assert that those who joined the Fund at its commencement, founded their expectations on the despatch, and not on the rules, or that they are bound not by the rules but by the despatch." The word expectation appears here to be inapplicable. It is not their expectations—which may be unfounded,—which they rest on the despatch, but their claims which they consider irrefutable. The case stands thus: the members of the Civil Service were invited to join the Fund on the terms and conditions contained in both the documents which Government transmitted to them, that is, the Rules and the Despatch. The Government of India, in addressing them regarding the establishment of the Fund stated, that the engagement of the Court was qualified by the condition that two-thirds of the service should contribute to the Annuity Fund; that it would be necessary therefore to ascertain the sentiments of the respective members, and that the "Despatch" was accordingly communicated to them. Hence, in examining and accepting the offer of the Court of Directors, the Civilians were governed as much by the Despatch as by the Rules. The despatch was in fact an explanation of the rules, and supplied the information in which they might be deficient. Thus: the rules provided that each Civilian should contribute four per cent. of his income; and that the annuity should be 10,000 Rs. a year of which the subscriber should pay one-half; and the Despatch explained that he should in no case pay more than the half. In their original communication, the Court direct that the Annuity Fund should be formed in Bengal upon the principles explained in the Despatch, and under the modification they pro-

scribed of the Regulations which had been sent and which are now called the Rules. Hence the Despatch and the Rules are of equal authority, and it was in reference of the terms offered in both those documents that the Service were induced to join the Fund.

"Equally erroneous," says the writer, "is it to suppose that the position of such subscribers in respect to the rules is in any way different from that of subscribers, who joined the Fund afterwards under Covenant." But we submit that there is the greatest possible difference between the position of those who voluntarily agreed to establish the Fund, and those who were afterwards constrained to join it, and submit to all the rules that might in future be passed. The original subscribers agreed to become members of the Fund on the promise contained in the Despatch of the Court, that they should not pay more than 50,550 Rs. for the annuity, and they have a clear and undoubted right to the annuity on the payment of this sum, nor can any subsequent rule of the Fund annihilate this right. Those who subsequently joined the Fund by compulsion, are at liberty to make any alteration in the price of the annuity, but only as regards themselves; they cannot bind those to whom the annuity was offered at the original price, who may claim, in good faith, the performance of the conditions on which they became members.

The writer contends that the words, "and no more" in the Court's Despatch had no reference to the refund of excess of subscriptions beyond the half value. He says, "Let any one attentively read from the 52d to the 57th para. of the Despatch, and he cannot fail to perceive that the observations of the Court are directed exclusively to cases in which a subscriber would have to pay something in retirement in addition to his accumulated subscriptions, in order to make up the full value of his annuity." This reasoning is very ingenious and refined, and might possibly carry some weight, if it had not been so entirely demolished by the letter of the Court of September, 1841, in which they have given their own interpretation of the words "and no more," by stating that the principle of refunding excess subscriptions was one of the original regulations of the Fund. As the words "and no more" do not occur in the Rules, but in the Despatch, the Court confirm our convictions that they consider the stipulations contained in the Despatch equally binding with those in the Rules; and that it is the provisions contained in both which must be considered as forming the original Regulations of the Institution.

The writer further states that "every subscriber is bound to contribute four per cent. of his salary, and all other public emoluments, so long as he remains in the service. This at least is equally clear from the Rules and the Despatch." We have carefully studied both documents, but are unable to discover any such provision whatever in them. The necessity of paying subscriptions to the end of each subscriber's period of service, is only a deduction from the Rule, that the surplus shall be refunded. If he was at liberty to discontinue his subscriptions as soon as the value of the annuity was complete, there could be no surplus. This appears to us to be clear and indisputable, and therefore the demand for continuing subscriptions, evidently rests on the contingency of the refund of the surplus. Every subscriber pays on till the day of his resigning the service; if it be found that he has not by

that time paid up the half value of his annuity, he makes up the difference by a fine; if he is found to have paid more, he receives back the overplus.

The writer says, that the first mention of refunds is in the Court's despatch of the 27th May, 1835, in reply to a memorial from the service, praying that some means might be devised to create sufficient inducement to the prompt acceptance of annuities. Upon this a temporary plan was proposed and acted on of allowing a certain number to retire on the payment of a quarter the value of the annuity, they receiving the excess of their contributions beyond this value, but "this temporary plan could not be carried into effect without the essential formality of a rule." He wishes, therefore, to infer that the refund of excess subscriptions over the half value, stands in the same category as the refund above the quarter value, that they both require to be sanctioned by the essential formality of a Rule, and may both be equally discontinued by the abrogation of that rule. But the history of the fund disproves this. We have not sufficient data before us to determine, whether any of the gentlemen who retired between 1825 and 1835, were entitled to refunds; if they were, and refunds were refused them, it would tell strongly against our argument. If none of them had paid more than the half value of their annuity, then the mere fact that the first mention of refunds was in May 1835, carries no weight, because there were no surplus subscriptions to deal with. The grant of annuities on the quarter value was an "experiment," and it was in vogue for five years. A large body of the members of the Service, however, began at length to consider that the system of giving refunds of excess subscriptions with interest was contrary to the object of the institution, and repugnant to their own interests; they therefore memorialised the Court by a majority of 78 to 12 to discontinue all refunds. To this the Court replied, that they would only sanction refunds above the half value in future, because "such an arrangement was in accordance with the Regulations of the Fund." The plain and unmistakable meaning of this expression, which no sophistry can evade, was that while the refund above a quarter value was a temporary arrangement which might be discontinued, the refund above the half value was part of the original regulations, and one of the essential principles of the Fund. Now, if this stipulation regarding refunds was in accordance with the regulations of the Fund when it was first formed, then those who joined the fund with a reliance on the integrity of its regulations, have an indisputable right to a refund of the surplus, which no subsequent rule can abrogate. The Court acted with a degree of unaccountable weakness and inconsistency, when they stated that "if the subscribers would adopt a rule in strict conformity with this principle it would have their sanction." They knew that the subscribers would adopt no such rule, for they had memorialized against it by an overwhelming majority. It thus appears that after the Court had distinctly acknowledged, that the principle of refunds was one of the original regulations, and therefore binding in reference to the original subscribers—they thought fit to leave it to those who were interested in opposing refunds, and transferring the money to their own benefit, to pass a rule, sanctioning, or refusing, refunds. Of course no such rule, was passed. But it is impossible that the interested votes of three-fourths or even nine-tenths of the service, on the common principle of equity, be of any avail to take away the right of refund from those

who originally joined the Institution with the express stipulation that they should have to pay no more than half the value of the annuity. When the Court, who formed the Fund, thus declared its original principle, it was unquestionably their duty to have maintained it in favor of those whose property depended on its integrity, and against those who were interested in breaking it down. Still the negligence of the Court cannot take away the right of the members who joined the Fund upon the conditions propounded to them.

We feel, however, that this is a question rather for the decision of a Court of Equity than of the fourth estate; and as the House of Commons have determined that the corpus of the Fund lies in India, it would, we think, be advisable at once to submit this knotty and much disputed point, to the investigation and judgment of an impartial Court of law. Those who originally joined the Fund have apparently strong grounds for expecting a verdict in their favor. They have the promise of the Court of Directors in 1824, that they should be called to pay only the sum of Rs. 50,450 for their annuity, and they have the subsequent declaration of the Court that it was part of the original regulations of the Fund: that all they paid beyond this amount should be repaid them. The refined and elaborate argumentation by which it is attempted to weaken these strong salient points ought to be referred to the consideration of those who are accustomed to the sifting of such questions, on the principles of legal equity.

WHICH WAS FIRST, the Government Proceedings against Jotee Pershaud, or Jotee Pershaud's proceedings against Government? An attempt is made in the *Englishman* to sustain the charge which the *Times*, misled by the representations of the Indian Press, and as yet ignorant of the facts, has brought against the Indian Government, of having ordered a criminal prosecution against Jotee Pershaud, in order to evade payment of the sums for which he had sued it in the Supreme Court. This is a simple question of dates, and will be at once disposed of by recapitulating them.

Various charges of fraud having been raised against the great contractor, the President of the Council, directed a letter to be written to the Lieut. Governor of the North West Provinces, on the 25th January, 1830, to request that he would cause the necessary instructions to be given to the Civil Authorities at Agra, with a view to a more thorough and minute investigation of the case, the result to be duly reported for the information of Government.

On the 11th March, 1830, the Lieut. Governor ordered the Magistrate of Agra to institute the most searching enquiry into the case, and report the result.

On the 27th of June, the officiating Magistrate reported, that he had examined the whole of the proceeding up to that date, and was fully satisfied that the existence of the most extensive frauds had been established.

The investigation of the frauds connected with the entertainment of Brinjars bullocks had been entrusted to Mr. Dick, the Magistrate of Bijore, and Mr. Wyly, the Joint Magistrate of Bareilly, and the former officer reported on the 10th of July, and the latter on the 12th of that month, that proofs of fraud to a great extent had been discovered.

On the 28th of July, the Lieut. Governor ordered the Magistrate of Agra, to examine into and expose the frauds which the contractor was supposed to have committed; and directed,

if the fraud on the part of Jotee Pershaud, or any of his agents was punishable by law, that he would inflict such punishment as the law required.

These orders were reported to the Governor General and approved of, though the exact date of his approval is not given.

It was on the 3rd of October, 1831, that notice of action in the Supreme Court was given by Jotee Pershaud's Agent to the Company's attorney.

On the 7th November, the Magistrate of Agra made a second report on the subject of the frauds connected with the Delhi Commissariat office, which having been submitted to the Governor General, Colonel Stuart, by order of his Lordship, stated that he had read the report, and was of opinion that the criminal trial should be proceeded with.

It thus appears that the original order of Government, to investigate the charges of fraud alleged against Jotee Pershaud, and to inflict such punishment as the law required, was issued on the 23d of July. The action by Jotee Pershaud against Government in the Supreme Court was commenced on the 3rd of October, in that year. The prosecution on the part of Government, could not therefore have been a cross suit, intended to defeat the demand made in the Supreme Court. It was impossible that the Government could have been cognizant of the existence of that demand two months and eleven days before it commenced, except by a kind of prophetic clairvoyance, which has never been conceded to it. Whether the action in the Crown Court was brought to induce Government to give up the criminal prosecution, it is not for us to say, because we presume not to judge any man's motives, not even a Native's. If in the course of these proceedings either suit was intended to counteract the other, it must evidently have been that of Jotee Pershaud, which was posterior in date. The charge of having ordered a criminal impeachment to escape payment of a just debt, and to counteract an action which had been brought for the recovery of it, may therefore be safely left to the reader's own judgment. Having thus effectually disposed of this serious and crushing charge which has been brought against the Government of India in Parliament, we have only to add, that although we might have some hesitation in saying, that, under all the circumstances of the case, the original prosecution was not something of a blunder, yet, we can scarcely consider it a matter of regret, when we find that it has resulted in setting the impartiality of the administration of the Company's Courts in so very favourable a light, and enabling Government to manifest its appreciation of judicial independence by immediately promoting the Judge who pronounced against its interests, to the highest judicial situation within its gift.

#### THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE IN CALCUTTA.—

The changes consequent on the recent death of Mr. Tucker, which have been for some time the topic of conjecture and discussion in Calcutta, were officially announced in the *Calcutta Gazette* of Saturday last. Mr. Dunbar, who has been officiating in the Sudder for Mr. Welby Jackson, now sojourning at the Neelgherries, has been appointed permanently to the Bench. Mr. Mills, the Superintendent of Police in Calcutta, has been appointed to officiate in the Sudder Court, vice Mr. Dunbar, during Mr. Jackson's absence, with the understanding that he obtains the next permanent appointment in that Court, which may fall vacant. He thus

supercedes no fewer than five Commissioners of Revenue, and eight Civil Judges, whose claims on the principle of seniority, were superior to his. Mr. W. H. Elliott, succeeds to the Chief Magistracy, and Mr. Samuella to the post of Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnas, one of the most important and responsible, as well as the best paid in the service. Mr. Mackintosh becomes Collector of Calcutta, in lieu of Mr. Skinner, who goes in the same capacity to Chittagong, while Mr. Drummond is continued as Collector at Burdwan.

Of all these appointments that which has created the greatest interest in general society, is that of Chief Magistrate of Calcutta. The question was whether it should pass out of the service, or continue to be attached to it. It was confidently stated, that the Governor General had announced it as his opinion, that it ought to be conferred in future out of the circle of the Civil Service, on a member of the Bar, and the friends of Mr. Hume naturally looked forward to his approaching elevation. The Government, however, have nominated Mr. Elliott, and Lord Dalhousie at once confirmed the nomination. There is much to be said in favor of its being given to a barrister; much also for its being continued in the line of the service. The Chief Magistrate has more to do with the laws of England than with those of the Indian Government, and is constantly liable to be brought in contact with the Supreme Court, under whose immediate jurisdiction he acts. In this view of the case, the office should always be occupied by "a barrister of not less than five years' standing," the favorite functionary of the Whigs. On the other hand, the officer to whom the charge of the police and the public peace in the Capital of British India, is confided, ought to be one who stands in the nearest official relationship to the Government which is responsible for the tranquility and well being of the town. Again, as Calcutta is the common scene of all the robbery and villany of the country, for fifty miles round, into which all its criminal notabilities are drawn as if by a natural attraction towards the place, where they can catch their expeditions with the greatest secrecy, and chance of impunity, the chief police authority in the town should be vested in one who has the advantage of the largest experience of the characters of men and the state of things in the Mofussil. Should Government, moreover, see proper to take the field in earnest against the heads of the various gangs of dacoits, who are congregated in Calcutta, and night after night disturb the peace of the country, more efficient aid will unquestionably be derived from a Chief Magistrate of the Service than from one out of it. Lastly, the Chief Magistrate of a town in which the vernacular language is still indigenous,—and is likely to continue so at least for the next ten or twelve years to come—among some 200,000 people, ought to be well versed in the vulgar tongue. If it were only to inspire confidence in the native community, and his inability to make known his most ordinary wants in the language of the country would be—we do not say a disqualification—but a very serious drawback to his usefulness. Those who argue on this side of the question, consider that the most sensible and judicious arrangement for the Magistracy of Calcutta, is to provide it with one Civilian acquainted with Company's law, and with the habits and propensities of the natives, and two Barristers, masters of English law.

Be that as it may, the appointment of Mr. Elliott, has given universal satisfaction. It would have been difficult for the Govern-

ment to have made a happier choice of a successor to Mr. Mills. His perfect knowledge of the native character, feelings, and dogmas, and of the language and habits of the people, his long and extensive professional experience, his extraordinary zeal and activity, and that strong longing for improvements for which he is so eminently distinguished, fit him in a peculiar degree for the high and responsible office to which he has now been nominated.

**THE INDIAN MARRIAGE ACT.**—In our article on this subject last week, there was a slight typographical error which we hasten to correct. The New Protestant Cathedral in Calcutta was styled St. Peter's instead of St. Paul's. We desire to offer the most sincere apology for this sad inadvertence.

A correspondent of the *Harkara* of Tuesday has altogether misunderstood the object of the Act, when he supposes that the secular Registrar is to be introduced into the church, and decorate it by performing the marriage ceremony. Nothing of the kind. If the Act had done the smallest violence to the feelings of the most scrupulous Episcopalian, we should have condemned it as much as if it had done violence to the feeling of the Dissenters. Its great virtue and value consists in the delicacy it manifests to the religious feelings of all classes of Christians, while it places them all upon a footing of perfect equality as respects the validity of their marriages. It ordained that the party intending to marry, should announce his intention to the Registrar, and indicate the Church in which he determined that the ceremony should be performed. The Registrar was to grant a certificate, which was in fact a license, if there was no lawful impediment to the union, and if no caveat had been entered. And at the time appointed the Registrar was to attend the church or chapel where the ceremony was performed, but simply as a witness of the act on the part of the state, and then to enter it with the necessary formalities in the public register committed to him. The Act made no change whatever in the mode of celebrating marriages in the episcopal church, or the persons by whom they were to be performed, and was therefore liable to no objection on the part of members of the Church of England. That which particularly struck us in the construction of the Act, was the admirable dexterity and ease with which all the difficulties which had surrounded the question of India marriages were overcome. There might have been some embarrassment with regard to the granting of licences to Dissenting Ministers and Missionaries to perform marriages. This was at once and most satisfactorily disposed of by allowing the party to choose his own Minister, and simply requiring the Registrar to be present at the place of worship to record and attest the marriage contract. There was a simplicity in all its provisions which indicated the hand of a master. The Act, which is understood to have been drawn up by Sir Edward Ryan, was the noblest, the most enlightened and the most liberal we have seen, and it has at once secured for itself the approbation of all parties, whether Churchmen or Dissenters.

We have reason, however, to fear that this proposed Act has been so entirely altered in India, as to be no longer the same measure. Whatever was liberal and generous in it, whatever respect was paid to the delicate feelings of the parties for whom it was intended, has been expunged, and the new provisions which have been inserted are so objectionable, that it is utterly impossible any Dissenter can ever submit

to them. It places Dissenters in an infinitely worse position than that in which they stood before they asked for relief. We refrain from further remarks at present, as it is not impossible, that the Authorities at home, may have thrown out the interpolations of our illustrious Legislative Council, and restored the integrity and the liberality of the Bill. If unhappy, that should not be the case, there can, and there must be no peace, till we have the Bill, the whole Bill and nothing but the Bill.

**TRADE OF BOMBAY AND BENGAL.**—The *Bombay Gazette* of the 1st of July, has furnished us with a statement of the General Imports and Exports of the port of Bombay, for the year 1850-51, and of the particular trade to Great Britain and China. The information furnishes a very valuable contribution to our commercial statistics; and we devote a short portion of our space to the comparison which it enables us to make of the respective importances of the ports of Calcutta and Bombay in a commercial point of view:

The total value of the goods imported into Bombay, from all parts of the world, (including Indian ports) in 1850-51 was		Rs.
Import of Treasure, .....	6,10,20,66	
.....	2,68,36,60	
.....	8,78,57,26	
Total value of the goods imported into Calcutta in 1849-50, (the last year of which we have any data) was		Rs.
Import of treasure, .....	5,21,20,66	
.....	1,18,49,00	
.....	6,39,69,66	
Total value of the Exports from Bombay, in 1850-51, exclusive of treasure, .....		Rs.
Export of Treasure, .....	7,21,25,60	
.....	8,65,00,00	
.....	15,86,25,60	
Total Exports and re-exports of goods from Calcutta, in 1849-50, .....		Rs.
Export of treasure, .....	10,25,00,00	
.....	20,25,00,00	
.....	30,50,00,00	

The two countries with which both Calcutta and Bombay, have the largest dealings are England and China, and the following is a return of their respective transactions:

Imports from England into Bombay, .....		Rs.
.....	2,90,12,00	
.....	4,65,22,00	
.....	7,55,34,00	
.....	98,50,00	
Exports from Bombay to England, .....		Rs.
.....	2,18,20,00	
.....	4,70,00,00	
.....	3,18,00,00	
.....	3,21,50,00	

The whole of the import and export trade of Bombay, amounts to Rs. 15,46,48,000, and of Calcutta to 17,42,07,000; and that of both ports put together, to a sum a little short of *thirty-three millions* sterling, a magnificent amount of commerce for one of the dependencies of England. We have, however, been much struck with the fact, that the imports into Bombay are Two millions sterling more than into Calcutta. The goods imported into Calcutta find their way throughout the whole of the valley of the Ganges to a hundred internal marts; but it is difficult, with the imperfect data before us, to discover, where goods of the value of more than six millions sterling brought into Bombay can find a vent.

It is much to be regretted that the mercantile community at Bombay, cannot be induced to encourage the compilation and publication of a "Commercial Annual" on the model of that which is annually printed in Calcutta, by Mr. N. Campbell. The arrangement of that publication is perfect, while the full and minute details of "Imports and Export of Particulars," and the "Trade with each individual







—The Bombay Gazette says that the Customs house officers of the Port have arrested the Governor's Barge on board of which was a quantity of smuggled tobacco. The article belonged, it appears, to a lascar who had charge of the boat from Panwell to Bombay.

—The Barches mentions, that Mr. Thomas Reuter of the Police Dockyard, is building a vessel of above one

Comdr. Geo. B. M. N. L., ...	to June 1851,	20
Lieut. Col. T. B. Forester, ...	to Decr. 1850,	24
Capt. Jas. Alexander, ...	Do.	24
J. W. Drake, Esq., ...	to Decr. 1851,	40
J. Goldingham, Esq., ...	Do.	20
P. A. Dyke, Esq., ...	to Decr. 1850,	24
Secy. to the Madras Club, ...	to Decr. 1851,	44
W. H. 1851, Esq., ...	Do.	18

To the public generally, we would mention that these astronomical days refer to the last, and not to the first day of the month.

INTEREST CHARGED.		
On Government Acceptances, .....	6	pr. ct.
On Fixed Loans on Company's Paper, ..	8 1/2	" "
On Deposit of Metals and Indigo, .....	10	" "
On the sale of other Goods, .....	10	" "

For rates of Interest and Discount charged, apply at the office.

All Applications for Home Remittances to be addressed to the Manager, and all Treasury Drafts, Hoondees and other orders for realization to be endorsed as follows :—

" Pay to William Anderson, Manager, Oriental Bank, Calcutta," or order.

\* Five per cent. discount. Carrying interest at the rate of last declared dividend.  
† Paid up.  
‡ Paid up Rs. 200.  
—*Morning Chronicle, July 19.*

ARRIVALS.

*Per Shelo Mith, from Rangoon*—Mr. Gordon.  
DEPARTMENT OF PASSENGERS.  
*Per Walter Castle, for the Cape and London*—Mrs. Col.  
Pattile; Col. W. F. Pattle, C. B. and A. D. C. to the Queen  
and 2 servants; Col. J. J. Farrington, Artillery and ser-  
vant; Major H. J. Gurgon, 31st B. N. I., 3 children and 1  
European servant; Capt. W. J. H. Charteris, Invalid-  
Co., J. A. Crocker, H. M. 21th Regt.; Lieut. H. M.  
Burns, H. M. 24th Regt.; Lieut. M. A. D. Orchard, 20th  
B. N. I.; C. W. Hatch, Esq.; G. B. Mackay, Esq.

011

5. General McLeod arrived off Calcutta on the 16th inst. t.  
6. Benares ditto ditto 18th ditto.  
7. Lady Thackwell ditto ditto 19th ditto.  
8. Jussa ditto ditto.





















# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL FROM P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDUSTAN" DUE FROM CALCUTTA.

NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Suva, and the intermediate Ports Malacca, Ceylon, Aden, Pessing, Swatow, and Hong Kong, intended for transmission by the P. and O. Co.'s steamer "Hindustan," on Thursday, the 27th of August, and which will arrive at Suva on Friday, the 28th of August, will be despatched on Friday, the 28th of August, at 11 o'clock, in time to reach the Steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Hindustan can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.

THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 1st of June the ensuing month of September for the departure of the next Steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Suva. Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the same will be despatched on Thursday, the 27th of August, at 11 o'clock, in time to reach the Steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Hindustan can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

J. R. BURTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, the 10th July, 1851.

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Mail of the 24th June arrived in Calcutta on the evening of Tuesday, the 24th instant, after a rapid passage of thirty-five days. The intelligence is not of very absorbing interest, as the Great Exhibition still overshadows all other questions, whether political or social. Sixty-seven thousand visitors have attended the Crystal Palace in one day, and the average number of spectators on the first four days of the week is sixty thousand. A great portion of the Russian contribution has at length arrived, and to the astonishment and annoyance of the Parisian jewellers, they have been eclipsed by those of St. Petersburg. A pair of malachite doors, brought from mines belonging to the Denidoff family, are estimated at the Custom house at £20,000, and the Viennese furniture for four rooms has been purchased by the Marquis of Westminster for £14,000. Some further contributions also have arrived from India, and the magnificent presents of the Nizam of Moorsabad to Her Majesty have excited general admiration. The political world is exceedingly dull, but the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill has at length forced its way through Committee, and fortunately without mutilation. The third reading will probably be carried without any particular opposition, and the House of Lords is not likely to set itself in opposition to Protestant feeling. Meanwhile, the Pope is about to fill up four of the vacant sees, including that of Southwark, and two more clergymen have gone over to Rome. On the 12th June, Lord John Russell obtained leave to bring in a bill for the reform of the Court of Chancery. He stated that during the last year, there were 5,270 cases brought into the Court, most of which were of the highest importance, and that it was utterly impossible for the Lord Chancellor with his present staff to get through the work required of him. He therefore, proposed to appoint two new Judges to be called Judges of the "Appel Court," one of whom should always be present in the absence of the Lord Chancellor. Leave was given to bring in the bill, but it is generally regarded as one of the temporizing measures peculiar to a Whig ministry. On the same day, the Chancellor of the Exchequer demanded £300,000 towards the expenses of the Office war, which

it is said, is not to be very expensive. The money was granted, with no opposition beyond a few speeches about Colonial misgovernment. It is said, that the committee on the Indian Revenue, intended to examine the propriety of continuing the tax on the new slave £150 a year, and Mr. May suggests a great authority on the subject, that if it were extended to incomes of £70 a year, it would produce upwards of five millions sterling more than it now does. There is a probability, therefore, that the scale may be lowered, and the Government thus be enabled to remove the house tax and other imposts. The remainder of the Parliamentary intelligence is totally unimportant. The Queen has held her state ball in the costume of Charles II. but the long description of dresses and gowns, given by the summarists, would not be very interesting to our Indian readers.

We regret to notice among the Indian intelligence an account of the death of Mr. H. St. George Tucker, the most aged member of the Direction. He will it is said, be succeeded by Mr. Astell, son of the late Mr. Astell, who sat long in the Direction that he boasted of having appointed to the Indian services men whose grandfathers had received writings from him. Mr. Astell was in the Company's service in China for seventeen years, and his election appears to have given general satisfaction. The next vacancy is secured, by a little India House management, for Sir James Hogg's son-in-law. The half-yearly farce of the speech at Addiscombe has been enacted, and the Chairman gave the usual advice to the Cadets, and told them that the sepoy were a most teachable race, and that debt was the greatest of evils. The dinner to Sir Richard Armstrong also went off well, but the appointment does not appear to be very generally popular. On the remainder of the Indian intelligence we shall probably have a word to say next week.

The census of Great Britain gives the population at 20,928,581, exclusive of those of Ireland. The population ten years ago, was 18,625,981, but the real increase is not apparent in these figures, as no allowance is made for emigration. If we add eight millions for Ireland, and twenty millions for the whole population of America, and two millions more for Australia and all the Colonies, we have fifty millions as the census of the Saxon Race, which in 1780 was only fifteen millions. We have seen observed in the papers that the population of Ireland instead of increasing, has diminished. If the increase had been in the same ratio as that of England, it would now amount to about 9,100,000. It is said to have fallen back to the census of 1821, or 6,801,000, a decrease of nearly two millions and a half.

On the Continent, there is little stirring. France being chiefly occupied with the question of a revision of the Constitution. It appears certain that some such revision will be attempted, but whether it will be in favor of monarchy or republicanism has yet to be decided. One thing appears certain, which is, that under any modification of elective power, Louis Napoleon will be re-elected by the peasantry. In Germany, every thing is for the present quiet, but an affray attended with great effusion of blood has taken place at Altona, between the towns

men and the garrison. The intelligence from America still turns chiefly on California, which is exporting gold at the rate of nearly a million sterling per month. The population of the State is estimated at 130,000 people, and already there is a rumour of an immediate annexation of Lower California and North Mexico. Immense hoofs of coal have been discovered in Oregon, a circumstance which renders the completion of Mr. Whitney's scheme of a Railway, from Lake Michigan to the Pacific, a mere question of time.

The late arrival of the Mail, compels us to omit all English extracts.

**OUR RAIL.**—We perceive from an advertisement which has appeared in the papers that the Railway Company have advertised for tenders for the construction of the section of the line which extends from Pandua to Ranee-gunge, to commence with the approaching cold weather. For the convenience of contractors, the section will be divided into lots of between five and six miles each. When we recollect to mind that the survey of this section did not commence before February, and that it has been carried on through the hot weather, in a year of the most intense and insufferable heat, it will readily be conceded that no work of equal labor and magnitude, and involving such details, has ever yet been accomplished in India in so short a period. If the contracts are taken, operations may commence by the 1st of November; and, it is devoutly to be wished that the experience of past delays and disappointments will be brought to the benefit of our future operations, on this new branch. The officer who may be appointed to take possession of the land, and make it over to the Railway officers, should be at his post early in November, after which every day is invaluable. The whole of the four months of our winter should be passed in tents along the line of rail, and the demands of the ryots for their houses and trees, and, as far as possible, for their interest in the ground, should be adjusted and paid on the spot, in a kind of *piet pudre* court, and they should be dismissed with smiling faces before the soil is turned up, so that we may ensure their cordiality and not their malice on this great national work.

At Ranee-gunge, the line which the Court of Directors have already sanctioned, and which the capital of a million sterling is expected to cover, will be completed. It remains then for the Home Government to decide whether the Rail shall stop at the Collieries, or move on through the length of the Presidency, towards Delhi and Lahore. Before they are required to take any decisive steps towards the accomplishment of this great object, or to pledge the revenues of India for the employment of mere capital, it is necessary that the line which has been recommended by Major Kennedy and Mr. Turnbull, that is, from a point about twenty miles above Burdwan to Bah-mal, and from thence to the estuary of the Soane, should be fully surveyed, and that an estimate of the probable expense should be prepared, including that of bridging the various streams in the line. If a sufficiently large staff of engineers be employed, and the same energy be used which has been exhibited on the line

from Pandua to Raneeungee, it is quite possible that this more lengthened and arduous survey may be completed in a single season. But this can be accomplished only by making a commencement in November, and the Engineers, to reach India by that date, must leave England on the 20th of August, at the latest. The whole expense of this survey will not be £5,000, and it may possibly be brought within that sum. It is a very insignificant outlay for the preliminary operations in so magnificent an undertaking, and if the Court of Directors are sincere in their intentions to prosecute the Railway till Delhi is brought within forty hours' distance of Calcutta, they will require only one sitting to settle the question, after which the papers ought to be returned from the Board of Control in a couple of days, with Mr. Wilson's imprimatur. But if the Engineers do not quit England in time to commence their survey with the commencement of the cold season, a whole twelve months will be lost. This proposal regarding the second section of the line which is now before the Home Authorities will, therefore, furnish us with an excellent test of their real feelings, on the subject of the Rail. If they allow the next cold weather to be wasted, we shall be driven to the conclusion that no confidence is to be placed in their professions.

The progress of the embankments on the line in which operations have commenced has been quite as rapid as could have been expected, under existing circumstances. The rains set in about the 12th of June, but the fall of rain has been so moderate along the line as to, offer scarcely any impediment to labor down to the present time. By reducing the temperature, it has rather tended to facilitate the work, which does not appear to have been interrupted, except occasionally, since it began.

**THE NIZAM'S AFFAIRS.**—The papers inform us that the crisis which was formerly as postponed for the 1st of January, but which was postponed for reasons not patent to the enquiring public, has at length arrived, and that the termination of misrule in the rich provinces of Hyderabad, is about to commence. The Nizam's debt to the British Government, which is daily increasing, has now reached the sum of 50 lakhs of Rupees, or 500,000. The Governor General has made a most stringent communication to the Nizam, peremptorily ordering him to pay up this sum, or to make over territory of the annual value of 36 lakhs of Rupees, to be administered by our officers till the claim is liquidated; likewise, to make provision for the punctual payment of the Contingent in future, to the extent of about 32 lakhs of Rupees a year, and to appoint a responsible Minister, equal to the exigencies of the post. Lord Dalhousie is reported to have used a very harsh expression in his despatch, signifying that the British Government could crush the Nizam in a moment, but as the employment of any such language was totally redundant, we are inclined to believe that the purport of it has been misinterpreted, or exaggerated.

On the receipt of this communication, the Nizam lost no time in appointing Seraj-ul-Mulk to the post of Minister, with the understanding that he was to raise funds sufficient to discharge the debt, and obviate the necessity of diambering the kingdom. To the surrender of territory the Nabob, as we might naturally expect, manifests the strongest aversion. It would impair his dignity, and irrevocably cripple his resources. If he be unable to pay the Contingent punctually, while he enjoys the

revenues of the districts now demanded, it must be evident that he could not meet that charge without them. His revenues are anticipated in every direction; many of the finest estates in his dominions are in the hands of the state creditors, and there is no other source from which funds could be raised. By the time the present debt was paid off, another of equal amount would have grown up. He must be well aware, therefore, that the coercion would, from the nature of things, be irrevocable. Seraj-ul-Mulk is making a desperate effort to raise funds, and is said to have proposed to pay down Eighteen lakhs of Rupees immediately, and the remainder in good bills, which will fall due in four months. These vast funds can only be raised from capitalists on the most ruinous conditions. These men are said to demand the recognition of all their former claims, however iniquitous, and the assignment of districts, which shall yield a sufficient revenue to repay all their loans, with exorbitant interest. General Fraser is said at first to have acceded to these terms, and then to have repudiated them. It is more likely that he rejected them at first, than that he should ever have listened to them. They would have effectually defeated Lord Dalhousie's design of bringing the matter to an immediate and final issue, and they would have augmented the misery of the people in an indefinite degree, at the same time that they would have thrown the finances of the State, which are quite complicated enough already, into a state of irretrievable confusion. There were no other resources from which the Nizam could ever hope to pay off these debts, and to redeem the districts. They must have been continued for an indefinite period in the hands of the very worst description of landlord, that of a mortgage creditor, whose only object is to rack rent the peasantry, and extract the last penny out of them. This plan of the Minister, though it might bring immediate relief, and postpone the day of final reckoning, was, perhaps, the worst that could have been conceived for the interests both of the State and of the people. \*If it became necessary, as it manifestly was, to make an assignment of territory to meet the present crisis, rather than allow the Nizam thus to make over these districts to the tender mercies of the Sahookars, or capitalists, and their screwing myrmidons, it would be far preferable for the British Government to insist on their being transferred, till the debt was paid, to our own officers, who would act under a strict sense of responsibility to an equitable, but firm and severe Government.

It must be manifest to every one who has paid the smallest attention to the matter, however, that the affairs of the Hyderabad state are now irretrievable. The Government of the Nizam is totally demoralized, and the finances of the state are irretrievably disorganized. This desperate remedy now proposed by the Minister will no more restore the state to a sound and healthy state, than Mr. Blaikie Scott's sale of Union Bank Post Bills could have set that institution on its legs again. The only remedy for the boundless evils which afflict that wretched country, is the entire transfer of it to the British Government, and the addition of the Nizam's name to the Royal and Imperial pension list. It must come to this at last. The irresistible tendency of circumstances is to absorption. This measure would rescue the people from the oppressions which now crush them to the earth; it would make a rich but exhausted territory flourishing, and it would remove the danger and anxieties which are created by the great body of insolent mercenaries,

who now prey on the vitals of the state, and domineer equally over the Government and its subjects. According to the strict letter of our treaties, however, we have no right to seize the country, and dethrone the Nizam, either because he governs ill, or because he owes us a large debt. But we have a right to demand the payment of this debt, and to pursue all those legitimate measures which may most effectually secure the recovery of it, and this is all that the Governor General can in fact do. We might indeed break up the Continent, but in that case the mercenary soldiers would immediately turn the Nizam to death, and take possession of the country, and rule the people with a rod of iron, and endanger the tranquility of all the neighbouring countries, for the tranquility of which we are responsible. It is idle to talk of the British Government's wanting territory and coveting the possession of the country. We do not require it; but, we are bound in honor and justice to take the most effectual measures for relieving the people from that overwhelming misery, which our supremacy has been one of the chief instruments of inflicting on them. It has long been apparent that there are few native states in which we, as the paramount power in India, can do our duty at the same time to the people and the prince. Our sympathies have hitherto been with the latter. It is time that some portion of them should be transferred to the former. Indeed, it may be a question, whether there should not be some limit to the currency of treaties which are the occasion of un-mixed evil. Be that as it may, though according to the letter of treaties, we may be constrained to maintain the puppet on the throne, and to support all the extortions practised in his name or by his officers with our influence and power, we believe there is not a British heart which would not exult to learn that an opportunity had occurred by which we could honourably place the Nizam on the same footing as the King of Delhi, and give his noble country the benefit of British institutions.

**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TOLLS ON RAILS** and Bridges has now been made general throughout India. The Act passed the Legislative Council on the 4th Instant. The occasion of this enactment we have already stated. Tolls have been in operation on the public Roads at the Bombay Presidency for more than a quarter of a century. When the power of legislation was vested in the Bombay Government, a local Toll Act on this subject used to be passed, when requisite, by the Governor in Council. On the centralization of the legislative powers for all India in the hands of the Supreme Council in Calcutta, the applications for the creation of new Tolls, or a modification of existing Tolls, were necessarily referred to it, and it became necessary in every instance to pass a new Act. It appeared advisable, therefore, to pass a general Act, conferring the power of levying Tolls on the local authorities at Bombay, and by a natural sequence, to bestow the same powers on the Authorities at the other Presidencies, to be brought into use whenever they might appear to be requisite.

Nothing can be more equitable than that the vehicles which are instrumental in wearing away the Roads, should contribute to the repairs of them. The chief objection to the establishment of Tolls, is that the power given for collecting them, which must necessarily be entrusted to Native agency, will be abused in every case in which an opportunity presents itself, and that whenever



food on which a Bengal cooly could vegetate, has failed, and we rejoice that it has. There is more in this matter than the local papers can discreetly utter. Suffice it to say that at the date of the Agent's communication, labor was as abundant and as easily procurable, as it had been for the last ten years. Since the railway operation began, six months ago, it has been more in demand, and the employment of the 6,500 coolies now engaged on the embankments, within the limited distance of twenty-five miles, has raised wages one-fourth. They will fall, however, when the works are completed. But it is a strange argument for the Agent of the Mauritius to use, "the whole of whose salary the Mauritius had been paying for four years," that because there was a difficulty in procuring coolies for the West Indies, therefore, the supply to the Mauritius should be curtailed. He seems to have forgotten that "no man can serve two masters."

The present measure, so quietly, we might say, clandestinely introduced by the Colonial office cannot fail to be most injurious to the Island. The effect will be to curtail the supply of laborers, in a colony which is almost entirely dependent for its prosperity on the immigration of coolies from India. The importation of rice is likely to be seriously affected, and at all events, its cost raised by stopping the supply of labor during six months; because it was the emigrant ships which were chiefly freighted with it; when the rice is sent alone, the charge for freight is considerably enhanced. Another effect of the measure, moreover, has been to raise the price of labor, inasmuch as the coolies, knowing that there would be no fresh arrivals for six months, have not failed to demand higher wages. To remedy the evil which this restriction must inflict on the Colony, the Immigration Committee propose that an address be sent to the Colonial Secretary, requesting him to prevent any stoppage of the emigration from Calcutta, and to appoint separate Agents for conducting the emigration to the Mauritius and the West Indies. They state that their revenues are fully adequate to the support of an Agent, whose attention should be exclusively given to the interests of the Colony, and they have no desire to effect a saving by sharing the expense with the West India colonies.

The Governor appears to be as fully alive as the Colonists themselves to the injustice of this measure. "He participates in the regret which the Committee express that the Imperial authorities should have considered it advisable to suspend emigration from Calcutta to Mauritius between the months of October and March inclusive, by restricting it during that period to the West Indies. These months too unfortunately comprise the most favorable season for the importation of laborers from Calcutta." He has adopted all the means within his reach to ward off the injurious consequences which might arise from this measure, by impressing on the Calcutta Agent the imperative necessity of using his utmost diligence to procure the requisite complement of laborers, and as Madras is not included in the prohibition, he has instructed the Agent at that port to supply the deficiency caused by closing the port of Calcutta.

This is a most singular and anomalous proceeding, and reflects little credit on those who have been the active agents in it. The Government of England was anxious to stock the West Indies with our coolies, and they gave instructions to the Emigration Agent in Calcutta to ship them. He found that the laborers would

not proceed to the West Indies while they could obtain service at the Mauritius, and that the only mode of supplying the one was to stop the supplies of the other, for a certain period of the year. The Agent was not to blame for representing this fact to the Colonial office in London, but he is unquestionably open to censure for having failed, at the same time, to inform the colonists of the Mauritius of the measure which was in contemplation, and which must so seriously affect their prospects. But we hesitate not to say that the Colonial authorities at home have acted in the most unjust manner throughout this business. The only ground on which Government was at all justified in interfering with the personal liberty of the coolies, and restricting their emigration, was that the crimps took advantage of their ignorance to inveigle them on board ship and convey them to a distant colony, where they were reduced to a state of practical slavery. This reason has long ceased; the admirable arrangements which have been made at Calcutta and Port Louis have removed every abuse; from the moment of their departure to that of their return the coolies are free agents; they are under the special protection of the Government on the island, where they enjoy every comfort, and acquire an independence of character, and amass a little purse. They are now eager to avail themselves of the advantages held out to them by a temporary transfer of their labor to the Mauritius. Is it fair, is it honest, is it just to prevent their proceeding thither for six months, and those the most favorable of the year, simply to constrain them to embark for a remote destination for which they have no inclination? Is not this a most iniquitous interference with the freedom of the subject, and a very unjust sacrifice of the interests of one colony to those of others? We know that the Government of India is obliged in all things to act in strict accordance with the orders issued by the Board of Control, but we trust that it will vindicate its character and independence by a respectful but earnest remonstrance against the injustice of this measure; and we trust, also, that the subject will be brought under discussion in Parliament early in the next Session. The Mauritians are Crown Colonists, and if they do not make themselves heard in the House of Commons, they will only have themselves to blame for the injury now inflicted on them.

CONDITION OF THE UNCONVERTED WIFE OF A CONVERTED HINDOO.—We have placed among our selections two paragraphs on this subject, from two recent numbers of the Madras Crescent. The question is one of considerable importance, and we therefore venture to state that the doctrine laid down by the Madras journal is, that by the Hindoo law a woman whose husband has renounced Hindooism is *ipso facto* divorced from him, and that she is entitled to marry again, is utterly repudiated at this Presidency. No woman, whether widow or divorcée, can ever be married a second time. A woman, according to the notions of the Hindoos around us, must always be given in marriage by the father, or mother, or brother, or uncle, or nearest of kin, and "that which has once been given away cannot be the subject of a second gift;" consequently, there are no circumstances under which a Hindoo female can contract a second marriage. Here, the wife of a convert who does not join him, is invariably considered in the light of a widow. He is regarded as as much dead to her, as though he were no longer in the land of the living; and

she is treated by her own kinsfolk, if she resides with them, exactly as a widow. It was under the impression that the fundamental laws of Hindooism were the same wherever it was professed, that we said the Hindoos were determined not to allow Lutchee Ummal to marry again. At this Presidency, they would not; as the Madras Presidency it appears that they may, but do not. The Editor of the *Crescent* tells us that he has never known an instance in which the relatives of a woman whose husband has embraced Christianity, have permitted her to marry again. We do not consider that this fact alters the case as regards the decision of the Supreme Court at Madras in the matter of Lutchee Ummal, the legality and equity of which are, with a solitary exception or two, universally questioned here; but the Hindoos of Madras weaken their own case in no small degree, when they strive to understand that if the decision of the Supreme Court had been in accordance with their wishes, the young woman would not have been permitted to marry again, but would have been subjected to all the inconveniences and temptations of early widowhood.

THE MEERUT BANK.—The proprietors of the Meerut Bank assembled at Meerut, on the 15th instant, and rejected the proposal of the proprietors at Calcutta and Benares, to wind up the concern at once. They have resolved to remove the Head Quarters to Calcutta, and place the institution under the sole management of a single Agent, upon a salary of £500 for a month, who is to act under the control of trustees. We desire to offer our sincere sympathies to the unfortunate shareholders, who are anxious to close the Bank, while there is any portion of their capital left. It is fully admitted, that one-third of the joint stock—within about a lakh of Rupees—is already gone. Little confidence, however, is placed in the flattering report of the Auditors, and it is believed, and not without reason, that a more rigid and extended scrutiny, would have exhibited a far less favorable result. But, assuming that only one-third of the capital is gone, it is scarcely within the bounds of possibility, and it is certainly not in accordance with the lessons of experience, that an institution, in such circumstances, can recover itself. However great may be our confidence in the ability of Mr. Taub, we fear, it is beyond his skill or power to retrieve matters. When an institution has got so far on its way to the Insolvent Court, the only thing that can be done to prevent its reaching that gloomy goal, is to arrest its progress at once; all hope of turning the machine round, and getting it back into the path of prosperity, appears to be altogether a forlorn one. The Meerut proprietors give us one of their strongest reasons for rejecting the proposal of the Benares and Calcutta Committees, that the Bank will soon expire by effluxion of time; but it is evident that they intend to make an effort when its natural existence terminates, to obtain for it a new lease of life, by refusing to make any of those preliminary arrangements which may expedite the winding it up. If the Bank is continued according to the present determination it will continue to grant loans for two or three years; and these loans cannot be called in before they fall due; the Bank must, therefore be perpetuated to the full extent of the longest period allowed for the payment of any loan unless it be the intention of the Directors to put up the demands they hold to auction, and thus close their books. We feel, the proprietors will have reason to rue the resolution



which has been passed, to keep the steam up a little longer, and that they will eventually find that every day the existence of the bank is prolonged, its resources become less available and certain.

THE BOMBAY GUARDIAN.—We believe it is not in accordance with professional etiquette for one journal to put another deliberately, but as the success of the *Bombay Guardian* may possibly cost us a few subscribers in that Presidency, our remarks on it will at least have the merit of disinterestedness. We make them, moreover, the more readily, because we are convinced that we did the paper injustice in condemning so precipitantly its unlucky outburst on the subject of the Crystal Palace. The *Guardian* is the only weekly Protestant newspaper, we believe, in Bombay, and it has fully asserted its claim to be ranked with the most distinguished of its brethren. The Editors, with their six or seven different creeds, not only appear not to have fallen out, but their united efforts frequently collect together a mass of information upon the social and religious state, prospects, and progress of the Christian creeds throughout the world, such as may be looked for in vain in any other Indian journal. The old reproach that a journal professing "religious" must necessarily be strident has been wiped out. The *Patriot*, the *British Banner*, the *Nonconformist*, and we suppose we must add the *Record*, in England, have as wide an influence, and are in general managed with at least as much ability as the secular journals. All these papers are, generally speaking, liberal. The same power of thought and writing is also exhibited in journals of a very different tone, such as the *Tidder*, the *Roman Catholic organ*, the *Church and State Gazette*, the organ of the orthodox portion of the Establishment, and the *Churchman*, that of the Puseyites. The *Christian Advocate* in Calcutta, the *Bombay Guardian*, and the *Christian Intelligencer* are following the same path, and all are enriched with information. The long-named publication is rather a magazine than a newspaper, but it has rapidly improved of late, under its new editorial management, and there is every reason to believe that the most sanguine expectations of its present spirited editor will be fully realized. We think that if he could venture to enlarge it, he might reckon on an increased measure of support.

THE BENEVOLENT.—We perceive from a prospectus sent to us, that a paper bearing this title, is about to be published in Benares, in place of the defunct *Recorder*. It is to appear in English and Oorloo, and the price is fixed at Rs. 16 a year. We scarcely think there is a sufficient number of readers in Benares and its vicinity to keep a newspaper alive; but the *Recorder* lasted several years, chiefly we believe, through Col. Pew's support.

DE PROPAGANDA FIDE.—The *Bengel Christian Herald* of the 12th instant, contains a tabulated statement of the resources and expenditures of the "Association for the Propagation of the Faith" throughout the world. We give this document a prominent place in our columns, the more readily because we know that a large proportion of our readers are deeply interested in the progress or retrogression of the Roman Catholic Faith, on which this table affords a few valuable hints. The accounts in the original are in francs, but we have turned them into pounds sterling, taking Twenty-five francs for the sovereign. We may observe, that the statement is a fair example of the perfect organization of

Romanism, as almost every country on the globe sends her quota to swell the list of recruits. The Roman Catholics of Great Britain, from the antiquity and large territorial possessions of their leading families, possess greater wealth than any other of the smaller religious denominations in the country, and contribute only £3002, which is not a very great evidence of a propagandist fervour. The head of their faith, the Duke of Norfolk, could give this sum out of his own exchequer without missing it. France, said to be the most irreligious country in Europe, contributes £76316, while the States of the Church contribute the sum of £14635. The Roman Catholics, who are in general poor, contribute no less than £10294, while Spain, a rich country, the Government of which has just accepted the most iniquitous and infamous concordat ever signed by any potentate, sends only £335. The Scandinavian kingdoms have too much of the spirit of Saxon freedom to bend the neck to Rome, and the contributions from all different countries in the North of Europe amount only to Fifty-five pounds. The most extraordinary item of receipts is, however, from North America, the whole of which, including of course Lower Canada, contributes only £2770, while the Propagandist Society spends in the same territory no less than £31,079. We say the same territory, because we believe the Missions in South America are almost, if not entirely, self-supporting. The fact is, that the statement sent us by Mr. Mulvey of the Western World, that Rome is making an extraordinary effort to obtain for herself the entire and absolute control of the valley of the Mississippi. It has, however, been alleged on the other hand, that the increase of her numbers in N. America is chiefly owing to the influx of Irish emigrants, whose poverty may account in part for the neglect of the Catholic hierarchy. The following is the list of receipts for the year 1860.

Amount of the Receipts for the year 1860.	
France, .....	£76,316
Germany, .....	1,755
North America, .....	2,770
South America, .....	2,770
Belgium, .....	6,540
British Isles, .....	5,682
States of the Church, .....	14,635
Spain, .....	3,355
Levant, .....	212
Lombard-Venetian Kingdom, .....	14,640
Malta, .....	414
Madras, .....	234
Parma, .....	430
Netherlands, .....	1,111
Portugal, .....	1,111
Prussia, .....	1,111
Russia, .....	10,294
Two Sicilies, Naples, .....	1,572
Saxony, .....	1,572
Silesia, .....	1,572
Switzerland, .....	1,572
From different Countries in the North of Europe, .....	55
Total, .....	138,185

Expenses.	
Missions in Europe, .....	£2,199
Asia, .....	11,115
Africa, .....	10,692
America, .....	31,670
Oceania, .....	16,415
Total, .....	120,783

As a pendant to the remarks, we may add the sum total raised four years ago, by the Protestant communities of Europe for Missionary purposes. The statistics are given on the authority of the *Bombay Guardian*, in an admirable article analysing the proceedings on the London May Meetings. In 1847, the amount raised

By the Established Church in England and Ireland was, .....	£. 100,291
By English Dissenters, .....	109,400
By the Protestants of Scotland and the Continent, .....	159,174

Total, .....

(Or about four times as much as the Association for the Propagation of the Faith.)

The relative proportion between the Church of England and the Dissenters, has not, we think, remained quite the same, as the former body has within the last four years, made immense efforts to draw out the resources she possesses, and the total amount of Protestant contributions has very greatly increased. We noticed also a few days since in the *Bombay Telegraph and Courier*, a report of a speech made by an eminent divine at Boston, in which he asserted, that the United States expended 710,000 dollars, — £118,000 — a year on foreign Missions, and we believe, the statement is very near the truth. This would bring the total amount up to £200,055 all expended in imparting the truths of Christianity to the heathen.

It would thus appear that while the contributions to the Missions of the Established Church of England amount to about 100,000, those which are raised for the evangelization of the heathen, by Protestant communities unconnected with her, do not fall short of 500,000.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE EXTENSION AND PERFECTION OF VACCINATION.—Under this very unpretending title, Dr. Bedford, the Civil Assistant Surgeon at Rangoon, has issued a small pamphlet containing suggestions for a centralized system of Hygienic observation throughout the Gangetic Valley, which would, if carried out, increase to a remarkable degree our knowledge of Indian disease, and of those climatic peculiarities from which we have to often, and so heavily suffer. The suggestion is, of course to point out a mode by which the system of "vaccine extension," now in force in Bombay, may be introduced into Bengal, but he would also make the machinery established for this object, self-servicant and equally important investigations in medical science. Dr. Bedford proposes to appoint a Registrar General, in Calcutta, under whom there should be three Deputy Registrars, one in Barrack, another in the North West Provinces, and a third in the Punjab. Each of these, again, should have under him three Sub-Assistant Surgeons, and the time of the whole body should be exclusively occupied in aiding the diffusion of vaccination, and in putting in operation a system of hygiene and topographical research. The Deputy Registrars would travel during the busy season throughout their districts, inspecting the arrangements of their subordinates, encouraging the natives to employ the "English tincture," and completing a series of meteorological investigations. The Registrar General would, in concert with the Medical Board, would obtain accurate statistics of disease in every station, and in every Barrack, and Jail throughout his jurisdiction, and thus collect a series of observations, which would perhaps enable the faculty to discover the cause of the excessive mortality experienced at new military stations, and prevent its recurrence. The rate of mortality in Indian Jails has long been utterly unintelligible; in one place one per cent, and in another, according to the writers, twenty per cent. of the prisoners falling victims in one year; the causes of these discrepancies as well as the remedies, would, of course, be fully enquired into. Lastly, Dr. Bedford strongly advises the taking of a decennial census, the keynote of all improvement. He does not, however, suggest any practical measure for overcoming the inherent difficulties of the undertaking, which make it appear, to us at least, absolutely hopeless. All censuses that have yet been attempted, have given a population to the square mile, so excessive as to compel a disbelief in the accuracy of the figures. The returns in the North West Provinces, exhibit a population greater in proportion than that of











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NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Madras, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong, intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Hindostan* will be closed at this Office, on Thursday, the 7th Proximo, at 10 o'clock P. M. The Mail for the East India House will be at this Office, on Friday, the 8th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, and that on after packet will be at despatch house to cover its arrival at Kolkatta, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Hindostan* can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.

THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 1st of the ensuing month of September for the departure of the next steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Buss—Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest mail data, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by due opportunity, will be Tuesday, the 19th Proximo, and that the first net of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Monday, the 18th Idem.

NOTICE is hereby given for general information, that the extra Mail per P. and O. Company's Steamer *Peninsular* for Bombay, Madras, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong, will be closed on Tuesday, the 13th Proximo, at 10 o'clock P. M. Letters intended for transmission by this conveyance may be deposited at the Post Office, on Monday, the 12th Idem.

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Calcutta, Gen. Post Office, the 27th July, 1851.

THE LATE MR. TUCKER AND THE EAST INDIA DIRECTOR.—The last mail announces the death of Mr. H. St. George Tucker, one of the most aged members of the Court of Directors, at the advanced age of Eighty. He originally came out to India the year after Warren Hastings quitted the Government, and six years before the Permanent Settlement of 1793 was completed, since which period generation after generation has appeared, and acted and departed from this Indian scene. He was for a short time the partner of John Palmer, in the firm which was once considered as stable as the East India Company itself, and was hence denominated the *chota*, or little, Company Bhandor. He entered the service of Government in 1791, and by his great aptitude for business, and remarkable ability and industry, rose to posts of the highest distinction in the administration. In the various important offices which he filled with much honor, he acquired that thorough practical knowledge of Indian finance which rendered him so valuable an acquisition at the India House, when he had been elected to the Direction. He was, we believe, one of those members who live over again their Indian life at the India House; resort to it early, and leave it late, and who delight in nothing so much as in the small of Indian despatches, and in poring over their contents, and preparing replies, which are often sufficient galling to the officials out here, and sometimes beneficial to the governed.

He is succeeded by Mr. Astell, for some time a journeyman at this presidency. He goes into the Direction on the prestige of his father's name, which is so honorably remembered at the India House, and also, it is said, by some kind of compromise with the gentleman who is to succeed to the next vacancy. A considerable share of experience acquired partly in China and partly in India, fits him to be a useful addition to the Court. The papers announce that the coming Director is Mr. Coutts Marjoribanks, a young gentleman, a member of the historical firm of Messrs. Coutts and Co., to whom public remembrance has already been assigned the colossal fortune of Miss Bruce of Kinross, and therefore the son-in-law of Sir

James Hogg, Deputy Chairman of the Honorable Court. It is said, that all his interest was given to Mr. Astell, and that all Mr. Astell's interest is to be given to him, so that the one may walk over the course as easily as the other has done. There has been not a little discontent manifested at an arrangement which wears the appearance of an attempt to establish a strong family influence in the Direction. However objectionable this may be, it is certain that in whatever hands the power of election or nomination to the Direction with its golden patronage may be vested, there will always be the same tendency to perpetuate its advantages in the families of those who have taken root in it. Even in the offices under the Crown, we often see fathers and sons, uncles and nephews, and father-in-law and son-in-law sitting at the same board. This disposition is inherent in our common nature, and not peculiar to the Directors of the East India Company. For every instance of nepotism in Leadenhall Street, we think its counterpart might be readily found in Downing Street. But, with the immense city influence possessed by a member of Coutts's, and the prominent position occupied by Mr. Marjoribanks, we think he might have been sure of the Direction without the aid of his father-in-law. We have known instances of men of far inferior pretensions and influence, carried triumphantly into the Direction on the shoulders of the city.

Independently of the question of Mr. Marjoribanks's succession, it is useful sometimes to have men in the Direction who have not grown old in India. We most readily acknowledge that the real strength of the Court of Directors, the efficiency of its control, and its claim on the gratitude of the nation for having ruled India well, is derived from the labours of those who have passed twenty or thirty years of the best period of their lives in the charge of various departments in India, and who have so thoroughly mastered every Indian subject, as to be capable of exercising the most beneficial supervision of its affairs. Unquestionably they are more valuable than the mere amateur Directors, who come in only to share in the leaves and flakes of Indian patronage; yet, in this fallen world, there can be no advantage without some countervailing drawback. A constant succession of Directors from India has an inevitable tendency to make the India House very much of a family concern, and the consequence is, that the whole service in India may be said to consist of a circle of cousins. Here every man appears to be related to every other man. The little German princes are scarcely more closely linked with each other by family alliances than the members of the Indian Service. In whichever direction we turn, we perceive nothing but an endless vista of relationships. Nothing is more common than to see the fourth generation occupying the same berths in the service which the first, and second and third generations have occupied before; with this difference, however, that every successive generation is more expanded in numbers, and furnishes a much larger supply of official recruits. There are many men, Englishmen, and not Scotchmen, with fifty cousins, in the different services, at the various Presidencies. A new man, without Indian antecedents, is al-

most a miracle. Now this is a disadvantage, because it confines the administration to the talents which a circle of Indian families can furnish, which at the best must be limited, and are likely to be very soon exhausted. Men in India, almost always look to the India House for a provision for their families, and they are generally enabled to calculate with some degree of certainty on their chance of one writership, and two or three cadetships, if such a friend, or such a connection, should continue in the Direction, or should obtain a seat in it, and these expectations are rarely disappointed, and seldom, if ever, by the absence of qualifications in the candidate. Although the Court professes to have made the entrance into the service narrow and difficult, so as to exclude the unworthy, yet their nominees do somehow or other contrive to get in, except where there is a most palpable deficiency of intellect. The consequence is, that England does not supply us with all the talent we require for the government of this vast and important dependency. Neither do we obtain all the talent which in this age of high intellectual culture England is so well able, even if she be not bound, to furnish, and which India is so well able to pay for. We have, it is true, men of extraordinary talent in the service, who only require an opportunity to acquire a European reputation for statesmanship. On the other hand, however, it cannot be concealed that we are encumbered with a larger proportion of drones in all branches of the service, than would fall to our lot under a more enlightened system of appointment. The remedy for this evil is to be found in enlarging the sphere of selection, and throwing open appointments to the competition of the great public Schools, without reference to connections. Till such a system can be adopted, it is advantageous sometimes to get new men into the Direction, and thus to turn the stream of appointments into a new channel.

Again, notwithstanding the great benefit which is unquestionably derived from Indian experience in the administration of Indian affairs, it cannot be denied, that the minds of men who have passed twenty-five or thirty years in India, are apt to become orientalised. Every thing corrodes quicker in the East than it does in the West, and the mind is no exception to the rule. We require a visit to England once every seven years to rub off the rust of the climate, and to counteract the injury which arises from association only with despotic and stationary institutions; yet many of our Indian Directors have never been home at all during their Indian sojourn, and when they do return and aspire to the honor of directing our affairs, are found to be a quarter of a century behind the age. Hence they are too often disposed to steer the vessel by the *Almanack* they took out with them. Some of them are so tied down by antiquated opinions as to be unable to rise with the tide of modern improvement. The Court of Directors, are, perhaps, the best governing body extant, but they are very slow, and often backward, and are too much disposed to manage this vast empire in the spirit of a little corporation, which is anxious above all things to keep every thing *enough*, and which presents the impertinent curiosity of the public. They would be all the better for a little admis-

ture of men, who should bring with them some of the freshness and elasticity of the age.

**PROTECTION OF MAGISTRATES.—**SEQUESTRATION OF MR. LANG'S PROPERTY.—The reader has not forgotten, that the Magistrate of Agre, towards the close of last year, sequestered some of Mr. Lang's property, on the ground that he had forfeited his recognizances; and it is quite possible that the humorous catalogue of the learned gentleman's "unmentionables" tooth-brushes, and other property thus sequestered, may yet dwell in the reader's recollection. For this procedure, Mr. Lang has now commenced an action in the Supreme Court against the Magistrate, with the view of bringing the important question of the extent to which a Magistrate is protected by Act VII. 1850, to a legal issue. We are happy to find that he has adopted this course. That Act, which has been the subject of so many attacks, was drafted by Sir Lawrence Peel, and passed by the Legislative Council with some verbal and very immaterial alterations. We shall now have an opportunity of obtaining the Chief Justice's own interpretation of the Act which he himself drew up, and the extent to which it was intended to confer immunity on the Magistrates and other judicial officers of the Courts. It has been hinted that if the decision should be unfavourable to Mr. Lang's view, it is his intention to carry the case in appeal to the Privy Council, and thus obtain the decision of the highest judicial authority in the British empire, upon a question which yields in importance to few others. This will be still more desirable procedure. It is highly important, on the one hand, that the liberty of the subject should be protected from invasion by those entrusted with criminal jurisdiction. On the other hand, it is equally important that the independence of the Magistracy should be securely maintained, and that the Magistrates should not be wantonly exposed to the malignity of venacious and vindictive litigants, by an action in which the quality is levied, not in the shape of damages, which are always trifling, but of costs which are overwhelming. The issue of the present action, whether in Calcutta or at the Cockpit, will be to establish a definite rule of action on a question of the highest importance to the welfare of society, and to the fearless administration of justice.

In an article which appeared on the "Annals of the Bengal Presidency" for 1850, in the number of the *Calcutta Review* published in April last, there was a notice of this Act for the Protection of Judicial Officers, which exhibited a thorough knowledge of the history of the question, and a perfect confidence in the authenticity of its information. In that article, all the arguments which were advanced in favour of the Act, and in opposition to it, by the judicial and administrative functionaries, who were consulted by the Legislative Council, were fully detailed. They put us in possession of the views of those who enjoy the highest influence in India on this question, and enable us to estimate the grounds upon which the Act was passed, which those who have no knowledge of these circumstances, have foolishly ascribed to feelings of unmitigated tyranny. As the interest of the subject has been revived by the present prosecution, we have published below the extract which refers to this Act.

"On the one side it was observed, that after the enactment of the draft, many an officer would weigh, with far less anxiety than he had been accustomed to do, suggestions regarding his want of independence; that he might become less careful in his ordinary and extra-judicial proceedings; and that,

if the liability to actions for acts done in excess of jurisdiction was materially reduced (if not practically done away), there might be a necessity for increased vigilance, on the part both of the Executive Government and the higher courts of law, to keep Magistrates within the bounds of their duty. It was also said that the protection afforded by the Act was confined to an unnecessary extent, and that the proper limits, within which such protection should be confined, were pointed out by the decision of the Privy Council in the case of *James v. Abbott*; that Judges, Magistrates, Justices of the Peace, and officers of the law, were not to be treated as a body, and that the proposed Act would amount to little short of a legislative declaration that those functionaries could do no wrong; that the numerous and numerous, passed in England for the protection of Magistrates, was of local relevance, and appeared to have been called for by the keen competition among legal practitioners, who, either from public spirit or the prospect of costs, could always be found ready to take up a case against a Magistrate, seeking his jurisdiction. Finally, it was remarked that the draft appeared imperfect, containing no provision, declaring judicial officers liable to a civil action for damages on account of illegal or oppressive acts done *malice*.

"On the other hand, it was observed that the proper check on judicial officers did not consist in their being made amenable to the ordinary Civil Courts in action for damages; that the Company's Civil Courts could not exercise the same power of awarding damages against officers, employed in the same districts with themselves, without producing horrible consequences; and that, if the proposed Act was passed, it would be a declaration of the independence of the Magistrate, and a declaration that the Magistrate was to be treated as a body, and that the proposed Act would amount to little short of a legislative declaration that those functionaries could do no wrong; that the numerous and numerous, passed in England for the protection of Magistrates, was of local relevance, and appeared to have been called for by the keen competition among legal practitioners, who, either from public spirit or the prospect of costs, could always be found ready to take up a case against a Magistrate, seeking his jurisdiction. Finally, it was remarked that the draft appeared imperfect, containing no provision, declaring judicial officers liable to a civil action for damages on account of illegal or oppressive acts done *malice*.

#### THE YOUNG CIVILIAN'S EXAMINATION.—

We publish another communication from our correspondent relative to the examination of the young Civilian, after they have left College, and entered upon the discharge of their public duty. This measure was first adopted under the directions of the Board of Revenue in February, 1850, when they instructed the Revenue Commissioners in their periodical circuits to examine all the Assistants, and with here and there an exception, every young Civilian begins his career as an Assistant—in the following subjects: 1. Proficiency in the Native languages. 2. Knowledge of Revenue law and practice. 3. Knowledge of Treasury Accounts. 4. Acquaintance with Zemindar Accounts. 5. And with the native system of measurement. The Assistant was also at liberty to volunteer an examination in surveying. Eight months after, the Government of Bengal directed that no Civilian should be entitled to promotion who had not passed this examination with credit. Our correspondent informs us that many Civilians of high standing condemn it; that some Commissioners consider it a bore—to themselves; and that not a few young Civilians regard it as derogatory to their dignity, and a fallacious test of their merits.

It is worthy of remark, that this is the first instance in which the Government, at this Presidency has considered it necessary to establish any test whatever of qualifications in India, for the various departments of the public service filled by Civilians. Not only has the Government so accredited statement of the fitness of any Civilian for any office to which he is

about to be introduced by his knowledge of the law and practice which must govern his proceedings, but it has had no report of the general aptitude of any member of the service, for the discharge of public duty; and hence, some, who were almost disqualified for the responsibilities of office by natural incapacity and innate indolence have risen to appointments on the tide of seniority. The venacular examination of the College of Fort William, being an admitted and palpable farce, cannot be considered any test of any thing but the wisdom of sending young men away from Calcutta as speedily as possible. It declares men qualified for the public service, by their knowledge of two languages, when they know not the difference between the words "plaintiff" or "defendant" in either. This is the first instance, therefore, in which Government has practically recognized the duty of making promotion depend on qualification, and as the principle is a sound one, and capable of extensive application, we hope, it will not be the last. As to the objections of the old Civilian, on the ground that men in their young days—"in a green" the Third was king"—got promotion and advances deserved it, without such an ordeal, to be dealt with gently. It is natural that they should approve of the system in which they have been brought up for more than a quarter of a century. The principle of Conservatism is stronger, and that of progression feebler in India than in England. The old Civilian, moreover, seem, to forget, that the improvements introduced when they were entering the service were as unpalatable to the men of 1850, as any recent innovations can be to them. Their objections, however, do not prove that the examination is not necessary; it only demonstrates the importance of remodelling the pension table, and encouraging men to move off after twenty years' service. If the Commissioners consider it a bore, which we are rather disposed to doubt, we should naturally conclude that their office was rather more of a sinecure than it ought to be, especially in the Lower Provinces. It is impossible that a more important duty could be attached to their office than that of training up the young men placed under their charge, in a knowledge of their duties; and if they regard it as a burden, the office must eventually require recasting. As to the young gentlemen themselves, they must have a very singular notion of personal or official dignity, if they suppose that there is any thing derogatory in submitting to an examination which may establish their reputation, and give them an advantageous position in the service. The indignity consists not in passing the examination, but in breaking down, and every objection from those who anticipate a failure, only serves to make it easier to establish the importance of the rule.

The present mode of examination is, however, in need of improvement. It appears erroneous, as our correspondent has well remarked, to conduct it without the aid of books, and to expect the Civilian to remember and to apply every Act and Regulation, and every Circular Order, and Construction, and Precedent. This is an exercise of memory, and of memory only, but the object of the examination is not to ascertain the strength of this faculty, but the ability of the Civilian to discern the merits of a case and to decide it according to the law and practice of the Courts. He should therefore be placed in the same position as on the Bench, with all his books of reference around him, and he should be required to go through case and apply all the existing rules, enactments and precedents to it. If he has not mastered

them, his deficiency will be immediately manifest. It is unjust to a public servant to test his qualifications for public employment chiefly by his power of recollection. It is not every man on whose nature has bestowed the faculty of being careful; nor is a Civilian to be treated like a goose whose value depends upon his stuffing. Moreover; it is quite possible for a man to be able to repeat the Acts and Orders, and give the dates without fail, and yet be unable to bring them to bear upon the cases which come before him. Our correspondent has also justly remarked, that common sense, and clearness of perception, and a successful manner with the natives, ought always to have their full value in estimating a man's fitness for public employ. An officer with these qualifications may prove invaluable to the interests of a district, where another man with the memory of the Admirable Crichton, would be a mere log. A thorough familiarity with the language of the people, is absolutely indispensable, and there can be no excuse for a man who does not acquire it in three years, more especially when he is obliged to speak it or to hear it daily. We have only further to remark, that these examinations reflect the highest credit on the Sudder Board of Revenue, and on the Government of Bengal, and that they ought to be reduced to a regular system, so that every Civilian shall be fully informed of the points on which he is to be examined, and each Commissioner shall be constrained to consider the training and examining of his young subordinates as important a duty as that of testing the Collectorate accounts.

**THE NIZAM'S AFFAIRS.**—By the most recent notices from Hyderabad, we learn that the new Minister Seraj-ul-Mulk, has succeeded in raising forty lakhs of Rupees, the amount of half the debt due to the British Government, and is prepared to make good the remainder within a limited period, and that General Trevelyan has succeeded to the arrangement, and abated the demand for the surrender of territory. This demand of Lord Dalhousie's was founded upon the distinct acknowledgment made in person by the Nizam to the Resident, that he had not the means of discharging the debt. When those means were provided, the territorial demand, of course, ceased. It is much to be doubted whether this measure, though it may postpone the day of absorption, will effectually obviate the necessity of that measure, and by restoring the vigor and virtue of the Nizam's administration, maintain his kingdom in its integrity. If this sum of Forty lakhs of Rupees has been drawn from the private hoards, which, like every other Asiatic prince, he is reputed to possess, the payment will be viewed with much satisfaction. But if this relief has been obtained by fresh loans from the capitalists, and fresh hypothecation of land-revenue, accompanied with the transfer of the territory to their charge, it is highly to be deprecated. In that case, the finances of the state will be as much embarrassed, as if the districts had been assigned to the British authorities. Perhaps even more so, because the accounts of these territorial assignments would have been more honorably and honestly adjusted by the responsible officers of the British Government, than they are likely to be by unscrupulous and imperative creditors. But even if the effect of this mortgage of land on the financial position of the Nizam, be the same as it had been made to the British authorities, and not to the native lender, the condition of the districts and of the agricultural population,

which would have been improved under the management of the one, must necessarily be deteriorated in the hands of the other.

But this borrowing of money from one creditor to pay it to another, will not provide the means for completing the monthly payment of the contingent as it falls due, will specify, recur again, and with less prospect of its being successful. The Governor General has assured the Nizam, that if the Contingent should again fall into arrears, he will resort to the same measure of territorial assignment, "for securing regularity of payment," which he has now threatened to adopt, regarding the old debt. But the Contingent cannot but fall into arrears, and all the sooner from the abstraction of revenue to clear off the old debt. There is, indeed, one mode of escape from the ruin which is impending, and one only; but the Nizam who is stigmatized by the Governor General, "as incapable of regulating his affairs, or of acting in subordination to any rule of good sense, or of being directed by any thing but his caprices, and the suggestions of his minions," is not the man to adopt it. By one bold and vigorous effort, he might rid himself of the expense, and the danger of his own turbulent troops, who cut up his revenues, insult his dignity by their riotous outbursts, and inflict misery on his subjects. They are possessed of arms, and of a degree of courage, which would rise to desperation, when the prospect of being disbanded and banished, was vividly placed before their eyes. They can scarcely be subdued, and removed without a struggle. The Governor General has broadly hinted at the aid the Nizam might expect from the British Government in such a case, but that prince has neither the will nor the pluck for so energetic a measure. In most oriental dynasties, the farther the prince is removed in descent from its founder, the more manifest is the decay of intellectual and political vigor. The Nizam has all the weakness and the vices of the "purple born." He will not allow the least rovince of indulgence in his palace to be disturbed by a crusade against his unmanageable mercenaries; and the fate of his kingdom may be considered as sealed. It is only a question of time. The constitution of the body politic in the Hyderabad state is thoroughly exhausted; and the violent remedies which have now been employed to prolong its existence, though they may impart a transient and galvanic vigor to it, will only serve the more rapidly to weaken the frame, and hasten its dissolution. We do not know the amount of the monthly deficiency in the pay of the contingent, but it must soon amount to the debt which has now created the necessity of demanding a cession of territory, and we cannot, therefore, predicate a longer lease of life than four or five years to the Hyderabad state. The Nizam is utterly unable to perform any of the functions of a ruler, and his Government is kept together by the presence of British troops, who maintain him on the throne, but only by the justice of every feeling of compassion or even justice for his wretched people, and we shall rejoice, when the period arrives for taking the sceptre out of the puny hands in which we have so long left it, and making ourselves responsible for the welfare and prosperity of the people.

**THE BOMBAY EXPRESS.—THE INDIAN NAVY.**—The Bombay Express, as it is called, by courtesy, reached us four days after the London Mail of the 24th June had arrived in Calcutta. It was brought to Bombay from Aden by a

sailing vessel! On a former occasion it was brought by a Collier. This arrangement will admit of no other explanation than that the Government of Bombay is designedly paving the way for the abolition of the Indian Navy, by showing the utter inutility of that establishment. The Court of Directors have acknowledged that the Navy is now maintained chiefly, if not entirely, as a packet service; it comprises ten or eleven steamers which are kept up at a vast expense; yet in two successive months it had no steamer available for the conveyance of the Mails; and one of its steamers has been thirty-six days gone from Bombay to Aden. These facts must decide its fate. The Deputy Chairman can offer no farther defence for maintaining a Steam Navy, which only leads to such constant and disgraceful disappointments. The whole question will come before Parliament in the ensuing session, and Sir James Hogg will then find that the political or the Marine authorities at Bombay have been diligently and successfully employed in depriving him of every argument for its continued maintenance. Any institution which does not answer the object for which it is kept up, cannot live in these days of practical utilitarianism. We advocated the propriety of continuing the line from Bombay to Suva in the hands of the East India Company, partly in the hope that very strenuous efforts would be made to increase the efficiency of these steamers, and partly, from the dread of establishing an entire monopoly of steam communication in Asia in the hands of a single Company, who had manifested so much contempt for public opinion, and so much indifference to the convenience of the public. But, a few months have completely altered the position of this question. The Indian Navy has become more inefficient than ever, and its duties have been transferred to sailing packets and colliers. The P. and O. Company have been aroused to action by the note of competition. Instead of threatening those who complained of bad fare, and gross intemperance in their vessels with an action for libel, they have more wisely threatened their passengers with dismissal if those grievances were not removed. Their movements have lately been characterized by unexampled spirit and activity, and they have entered upon new enterprises without waiting for contracts from Government. At the eleventh hour they have determined to secure a renewal of their contracts by showing that they are worthy of them. We have still our old and inveterate dread of monopoly, but if a monopoly be inevitable, it could not be given to a more worthy, or public spirited body than the Peninsular Company now appear to be. We believe there is no longer a single individual in India—those connected with the Indian Navy, perhaps, excepted—who would not now rejoice to find the Bombay line transferred from the steamers of the state to those of this Association.

**THE OPTIMIST** has appeared, and is exactly what every one expected, very well "got up," very clever, very flighty, and very pugnacious. There is not the smallest necessity for any Advertisement of the Editor's name, as every line bears the unmistakable impress of Mr. Lang, the real original *Magnificent*. The notice to an imaginary correspondent "Enquirer," that he intended to make overtures to "Paddy Hughes," as his London correspondent, is exactly in the style of that journal. Already, the *Optimist*, with its motto "that all is for the best," is at war with half the Press of Calcutta, and before many weeks have passed, may possibly be fighting with the remainder. We doubted at

first, whether the *Optimist* would succeed, not because of the number of journals already existing in Calcutta, but because we thought, and still think, that in a large metropolis with four daily newspapers, a semi-weekly paper would be out of place. Perhaps, it would relieve the minds of a number of the *Optimist's* friends and admirers from anxiety, if the public were definitely informed, how long it is intended to endure. There is, we know, a vague idea abroad, that its existence is bound up in "Jivree Fernald's case,"—like some of those sympathisers, who read of in story books, one of whom always dies when the other has ceased to live. We have reprinted the Editor's preface below, and we wish him and his paper, every success.

"One of the papers (the *Friend of India*, we think), in noticing the *Optimist's* intended appearance, alluded to the number of Calcutta Journals already in existence, and, if we mistake not, seemed doubtful of our success, in consequence. Now, strange as it may appear to some folks, the number of publications at present issuing from the Calcutta Press satisfied us that our labor, while they afforded us an annual remuneration, was not a very desirable profit. We argued, with ourselves, that if people could subscribe to, and actually pay for, such dull productions as the *Harbinger* and *the Standard*, there was surely some ground for hoping that a decently condensed periodical could hardly be overdone in this metropolis. As may be imagined, our calculations, in no way embraced the *Cosmopolitan* boards.

Some of a day I sent him the flood:  
Then mumbled with the puppies in the mud.  
Ask ye their names? I could as soon discuss  
The nature of three blind puppies as of three.

In short, we reasoned that the taste of the country was scarcely so depraved as to lead people to purchase (the mercantile phrase must be excused) an inferior article when a superior one could be procured at an equally moderate figure.

It is true that Calcutta has very many papers, and yet Calcutta has but one paper (the *Asiatick*), whose opinions are held in any degree of respect. The *Asiatick* is the one that attracted the faintest impression to the constantly reproduced, fire-drawn, foreign, travelling illustrations of what we suppose we must call "the East." There was surely some ground for hoping that a decently condensed periodical could hardly be overdone in this metropolis. As may be imagined, our calculations, in no way embraced the *Cosmopolitan* boards.

Even should they all discharge their tongues  
In vesion till they burst their lungs,  
Their utmost malice cannot harm me here,  
Your head, or even your finger ache.

Instead of adding to the list of Calcutta papers, we are under the impression that the *Optimist* will diminish the number.

It has been said, and we believe with great truth, that the gross amount of money expended on the cultivation of India far exceeds the sum the manufacturing article has realized; and we conceive it may with equal truth be asserted, that the gross sum expended by the entire press of this country, exceeds, by very many lakhs of rupees, the actual amount the presses have earned. A few, how very few, have made their fortunes. How many, how very many have brought their proprietors to bankruptcy. There is a dogged obstinacy about people who embark their money, (or that of other persons) on the press. Like poor Charles Matthews, of Yatra, they will carry on, though they are convinced their perseverance is leading them to absolute ruin. The newspaper proprietor, however has this advantage (if it may be so styled) over the losses of a Yatra. He has the motive, and does not fail to realize the value of shilly shally, and the propensity of the journal while the death rattle is audible in its ears, and the proprietors are standing under the spacious porches of the Insolvent Court—a melancholy indication of the success which principle frequently makes at the Shrine of Fide.

#### VERNAICULAR SCHOOLS IN THE SIMLAH AGENCY.

—We have been favored, with a very gratifying report of the progress of vernacular schools, which have been established in the Simlah Agency, by the Superintendent. They furnish us with another instance of that spirit of improvement which animates so many of the officers of Government, and which leads them to render the power and influence they enjoy, subservient to the cause of benevolence, independently of any other motive. It is a great benefit, which the British administration brings with it; in this country, arises not so much from the good intentions of the Central or of the Provincial Governments, as from the active and unbidden, and so often unappreciated exertions of their servants.

The various hill rajahs who are required from time to time to pay their respects to Mr. Edwards, have always adopted the mode of offering, at present; but these pepper greeks of allegiance had at ways been considered the perquisites of the native officers of the Agency. Mr. Edwards determined to put them to a nobler use, and to establish as many schools in the districts as they were sufficient to sup-

port. He has thus been enabled to plant a circle of Schools in the different localities among these wild and uncivilized highlanders, of which the School at Simlah, is the centre and the model. The prospects of the School at Simlah had been seriously affected by the departure of the Head Master, but the Meer Moonshee of the Agency, Baboo Shepersad, devoted every moment of leisure he could find to the superintendence of it, till the arrival of a young, Baboo Griesendunder Dutt, educated in the Free Church Institution, who had been selected by Mr. Bannan. He has now been seven months in charge of the Institution, and by his zeal, and energy, and his peculiar aptitude for the duties of a preceptor, has more than realized the sanguine expectations which were formed of him from the admirable School in which he had been trained. By the last return of the number of Scholars, we learn that the average attendance is about 120. Some of these belong to the higher classes; two of them are the sons of hill chiefs, and as it is of importance to secure the attendance of youths like these of superior birth and influence, some small distinctive privileges have been accorded to them, which, however, do not appear to have excited any feelings in the minds of the inferior students, to whom the virtues of liberty, fraternity, and equality are as yet unknown. The great object both in the central and in the district Schools is to give instruction in the language of the pupils, Hindoe, although those who wish it, are instructed in English.

The plan of education which has been adopted in these Schools is that graduated course of instruction which has proved so successful in the larger establishments for the education of the poor in England. On the admission of the young mountaineer into the School, an attempt is made to engage his attention and excite his curiosity, by the "Gallery system," in which the pupils are placed in the rear of the school, and the advantage of which is that it addresses itself to the sense of sight, through which the young untutored mind is most easily aroused and gratified. In the case of children fresh from the hills, who are in a state of the most complete and brutal ignorance, it is found almost impossible to call their habits of expenditure into exercise. The first series of figures presented to them at the Simlah School are engravings of animals, more especially those with which they are most familiar. When the curiosity of the children has thus been excited, substances, such as wood, iron, glass, bricks, are brought under their notice, of which they are required to give the names, and describe the qualities. Then comes the alphabet, which is taught with no less ingenuity than success. Several copies of the *Hindoe* letters of large dimensions are printed, on separate pieces of card or wood, of equal size, and thrown together in a heap. The teacher then draws a letter on a black board with chalk, and the boys in the little circle around him are required to select a similar copy from the heap, when the name of the letter is written on the board. This exercise serves to improve the form deeply on the memory, at the same time that it affords the children both excitement and amusement. They are then instructed in the art of combining the letters into words. Writing is taught in a similar mode. The teacher draws successively the different parts of letters on the board, and the children copy the stroke by stroke, on a slate or board. The science of arithmetic, as far as Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, Division, and Fractions is taught upon a similar principle by means of balls, and the same plan is also used regarding the simple elements of Geography. We also find, that the plan of teaching writing from the dictation has been adopted, and is found to be the simplest, the easiest, and the most successful for enabling them to write their own language with correctness and fluency. The boys at Simlah are subject to a weekly examination, and rewards of small value are given to them for the following virtues: first and foremost, personal cleanliness;—the dirty boys are constrained to sit apart;—good behaviour; shilly, regular attendance; fourthly, general progress. There are also half yearly examinations, at which scholars who are allotted to the most diligent youths, as well as other prizes, and these tend to keep up a spirit of laudable emulation and to ensure progress.

Ever since the establishment of the Schools in 1848, the most serious obstacle to their success has been the want of books, adapted to the wants and the tastes of these people. It was to supply this deficiency, the Superintendent and his able energetic assistant, Baboo Shepersad, put their own shoulders to the wheel, and have gradually produced a series of works, of which seven numbers have been already printed at a small lithographic press at Simlah; several others are ready for the press, while more are in progress. The series is kept in view in compiling these works has been to supply useful and interesting information calculated to influence the minds of the children in their own language, and in the simplest and most perspicuous form. We have only room for a very brief analysis of the books. The first of the series contains the Alphabet,—the *Burmah* Male,—with all the compound letters. The Second is a supplement to the first, and gives rules for the joining of letters. The third book of the series, is the *Kubane*. It consists of short and simple Tales, each containing some moral, and clothed in an amusing and instructive dress. In drawing up these stories care has been taken to avoid every thing fabulous, and to give, by simple explanations, to make them particularly useful in conveying instruction. The fourth book is a treatise on Arithmetic. The fifth, the *Chitte* putra, and is divided into four parts; the first contains specimens of the form in which *lytters* and orders are issued from the office of the Agent to the chiefs, and replies, letters and petitions sent by the chiefs; the second, forms of official papers and legal documents, deeds of mortgage, notes of hand, and power of attorney. The other two, embrace the forms of letters addressed to those of high rank and official dignity, and also give directions for ordinary correspondence. The sixth number of the series is a children's tale, taken from the *Chitte* putra, which conveys the information contained in that work in a manner adapted to the taste and capacity of these native children. The last work yet completed, is a history of the world, of the different countries it comprises, their inhabitants, and productions, given in a simple and attractive form. It must not be supposed that the series of books has been compiled simply with a view to the education and the wants of these wild and untutored highlanders, and that any attempt to introduce them to an acquaintance with Shakespeare, and Bacon, and the differential calculus would be entirely futile.

We have already stated, that the number of scholars in attendance at the Central School at Simlah is 120, according to the latest return. The number of Schools established in the district is Thirteen, and the average of attendance, 280. This shows that they are appreciated by the people; farther and still more gratifying proof of which is to be found in the fact that when the Superintendent was in the Juleid district some time ago, after he had concluded the examination of the school, a class of from 18 to 20 grown up men, of an age apparently varying from twenty to thirty-five, presented themselves, and requested to be examined. They were inhabitants of the adjoining villages, and after the labors of the day were over, had formed a class and received some instruction from the school in the evening. Every one of them could read fluently, and had commenced writing and accounts. The pundits now employed in the Schools are ill qualified for their duties, but this is in some measure remedied by calling them in, from time to time, to the Central School to receive instruction; but the School will in a few months more furnish some very able and well taught preceptors, and thus give further efficiency to the system. We have only room farther to add, that two female Schools have been established, at two stations; one of them under the auspices of the Rana, and the other of the Rance, both of whom are very intelligent, and very anxious for the improvement of the mountaineers.

CHURCH MEMORIAL SOCIETY.—We have received the Thirty-second report of the Calcutta Branch of this Society, and are happy to see that it is in general flourishing, though the year has not been without the usual number of difficulties to be overcome, and protracted to be endured. The Society now num-





























# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 1st of the ensuing month of September for the departure of the next steamer therefrom, with a Mail for India—Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Tuesday, the 19th Proximo, and that the first set of the Overland Packets will be closed at and despatched from this Office, on Monday, the 18th Idem.

J. R. BRISTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge  
Calcutta, Genl. Post Office, the 27th July, 1851.

OVERLAND SUMMARY.—The Bombay Express with the Mail of the 7th July arrived in Calcutta, on the evening of Sunday, the 13th instant, after an unusually rapid passage of thirty-four days and a half. We are sorry, however, to perceive, that it has been ten days coming from Bombay. If it had reached us, as usual, in eight days from thence, the London Mail would for the first time have been delivered in Calcutta in thirty-two days, and eight hours. We shall soon, however, begin to grumble if it does not arrive in thirty days, and with a Railroad in Egypt, and the best vessels, this may be accomplished with ease. The news of the fortnight is of very limited interest, but the columns of our Summaries for the first time in the past two months, say little of the Great Exhibition. The only discussion upon the subject refers to its ultimate destination. The Commissioners are at present pledged to remove the building, but such a measure would be so decidedly in opposition to the popular feeling, that there is every probability of its being maintained, and turned into a great winter garden. The Queen is about to honour the Mansion House with her presence at a ball, and it is said that a Banquet will be conferred upon the Lord Mayor, Alderman Musgrave. Prince Albert has visited Ipswich with the British Association, and laid the foundation of a new Grammar School. He has also agreed to become the patron of the local Museum, an Institution which promises to become one of the best provincial collections of the kind. The eternal Ecclesiastical Titles Bill has at length escaped the House of Commons, and by one of those strange freaks peculiar to that Assembly at the present time, has been actually changed into a substantive and efficient measure. Sir F. Thesiger moved that the Bill should be an act subject to the penalty declared in the Bill. This Lord John Russell opposed, both in Committee, and at the third reading, on the ground that it would "affix a cumulative penalty to the same offence." The amendment was, however, carried by a majority of 208 to 120. A second amendment by Sir F. Thesiger, providing that common informers might sue for the penalty, was also opposed by the Premier, who was, evidently determined that his bill should remain the wistful affair to which repeated concessions had reduced it. The House, however, supported the amendment by a majority of 263 to 46, and the bill passed. The Irish Brigade took no part whatever in the last discussion, the whole body walking out of the House. The bill for the reform of the Scottish Universities, in other words, for establishing the Free Church to a participation of equal educational privileges with the established Kirk, has been rejected. The bill was brought in by the Member for Edin-

burgh, and ably supported by several Scottish members, but it was opposed by Mr. Lockhart and others, and was defeated by a majority of one, in a thin house. The present quack which is administered to all professors, excludes men like Sir David Brewster, by requiring him to affirm that he would "follow no divisive course from the present establishment of this Church." The test was originally introduced to keep out Roman Catholics and "protestants," but at present it excludes only the former party and the Free Church. On the 1st July, the Marquis of Blandford moved an address to the Queen, praying her to adopt more efficient measures for relieving the spiritual destitution of the people. He said, that there were 1,800,000 souls who had neither opportunity nor encouragement to enter the House of God, and he prayed, therefore, for the erection of 600 new Churches at a cost of £2,100,000, half of which was to be raised from private sources. He also desired to see new Bishoprics established, and paid out of the incomes now absorbed by the Deans. The motion was supported by Mr. Hume and Sir B. Hall, and was agreed to. It was understood that the address, if it led to any practical result, would tend to a great re-distribution of the revenues of the Establishment, but even in this point of view we are at a loss to account for the conduct of either Mr. Hume, or Sir B. Hall. The result of such a measure must inevitably be a great increase of the power of the Establishment, and certainly the majority of the English people, or even of English voters are by no means in favour of strengthening the Ecclesiastical Corporation. No practical measure can, however, be taken without a further reference to Parliament, and before that time, the new Reform Bill will have been introduced. It is said, that Lord John Russell intends to make education and literary character a qualification, wholly irrespective of property. We can scarcely believe that a Whip Premier will do any thing so liberal. The Bishop of Exeter has held his synod, which was attended by 111 Clergymen, and dignitaries, who affirmed the principle of Baptismal regeneration, recorded a protest against the appointment of a Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth, declared their unalterable attachment to the Church of England, and went home again.

The most important fact, perhaps in the history of the fortnight, is the publication of the census of Ireland. The decrease which was mentioned as a rumour in the last Mail, now turns out to be a real fact. The population of Ireland, which in 1841 amounted to 8,175,125, is now only 6,515,795, being a decrease of 1,659,330, or more than twenty per cent. The religious statistics of the Empire have not yet been published, but the greatest decrease has been in the Roman Catholic provinces, Connaught having lost 28 per cent. and Munster 23 per cent. The number of emigrants who have quitted Ireland within the last ten years is 1,900,000, which will account in a great measure for the immense increase of population in the United States. The whole extent of the movement is not, however, shown in these figures, as the majority of the emigrants belong to the poorer classes, that is, men between the ages of Twenty and Forty, and the decrease for the

future will, therefore, be even more rapid. These figures reduce the whole increase of population in the British Isles in ten years to half a million, but it may be doubted whether every Irishman who emigrates, does not add to the strength of England, by becoming a valuable customer abroad, instead of an encumbrance at home. The Indian Intelligence, particularly the report of the Haylebury meeting, we shall remark upon hereafter, but we may mention that the Indian Marriage Bill has passed the House of Lords, and the Lower House has ordered to be printed. The Correspondent of the *Hurkaru* states that it has been read a second time in the Commons, in which case, it may possibly pass in the present session. But, as it will become a dead letter immediately, it must of course be repealed, when the subject of India is brought under Parliamentary discussion at the termination of the Charter. The bill for giving compensation to the extent of £10,000 to Mr. Silk Buckingham has been withdrawn, and the Court of Directors have bestowed on him a pension of £400 per annum for his life.

On the Continent nothing of interest has transpired. The French President has opened another Railway, and made another speech, but on this occasion without irritating the Assembly. There appears to be no doubt that if the Revision of the Constitution be rejected by the Assembly, he will appeal to the people, and the peasantry will once more throw him up to power. The French Army in Rome has been increased by 1500 men, and the Commander-in-Chief, General Ganeau, has demanded and obtained possession of the strongest military positions in the city. Meanwhile, the Pope has granted an indulgence of one hundred days to all Italians who will subscribe to the erection of the great Roman Catholic Cathedral in London. The receipt has excited great indignation in England, as his Holiness still pertinaciously refuses to allow of the erection of a Protestant place of worship in Rome. The armies of the Czar have been again beaten in the Caucasus, the number of Russians killed being estimated at 5000, which is an obvious exaggeration. The city of Archangel has been visited by a severe conflagration, which has burnt the merchant's quarter to the ground.

The news from America is rather important. San Francisco has been again reduced to ashes, by one of those fearful conflagrations so frequent in California. Several of the public buildings, nearly all the Hotels, and every printing office, except that of the *Alta Californian*, have been burnt to the ground. The loss is estimated at Fifteen Millions of dollars, and the catastrophe has for the moment paralysed the hopes of the colony. In the United States, the chief topic of interest was the discussion regarding the election of a President, Mr. Fillmore, General Scott, and Daniel Webster being the Whig candidates. The latter has the best chance. The most favoured Democratic candidate, is General Butler, a man hitherto but little known. A proposition has been made to the English Government to join in a protectorate for the security of the Central American States, and for free action with respect to any line of communication between the Atlantic and the Pacific, the object of which apparently



crises of disturbance at Cashmere, and of the closing of the passes. That officer reported the circumstances to Head Quarters at Simla, and from that day forward the most extravagant and absurd editions of the rumour were spread abroad.

**PROTECTION OF MAGISTRATES.**—The case of *Mr. Lang versus Mr. Gubbins*, came off in the Supreme Court, yesterday week. We have thus obtained the advantage of a clear and definite interpretation of the Act by the learned Judge, at whose suggestion it was enacted. The Chief Justice annulled in several terms on the great irregularities which had been committed by the Magistrate in treating *Mr. Gubbins* property for not having produced *Jotoc Pursad* in the Court at the appointed time. *Mr. Gubbins* counsel pleaded Act XVIII. of 1850 for giving Protection to Magistrates, but his Lordship observed, that it was not merely necessary for the Magistrate to believe that he had jurisdiction in the case, but that he must show that he had good cause for entertaining this belief. *Mr. Gubbins* was therefore condemned to a fine of 50 Rs. and costs, which will fall little short of 8000 Rs.

The Act provided that "no Judge, Magistrate, or the Peace, Collector, or other person acting judicially should be liable to be sued in any Civil Court for any act done, or ordered to be done by him in the discharge of his judicial duty, whether or not within the limits of his jurisdiction, provided that he at the time, in good faith believed himself to have jurisdiction to do or order the act complained of." We stated at the time when the draft was first promulgated, that "although some such law was evidently needed, that which had now been proposed went too far in exempting public officers from all personal or pecuniary liability for acts, however irregular and illegal, provided only they believe they are acting properly at the time." It is obvious on the one hand that those who suffer injury from the illegal proceedings of men in authority, should not be left wholly without the means of obtaining redress or compensation. On the other hand, it is equally inexpedient that public officers should not be liable to be harassed by long and expensive suits for each of those little irregularities or clerical errors which occasionally creep into the proceedings of the most careful and conscientious functionaries." Actions of this nature have heretofore been brought in the Supreme Court to harass judicial officers, and inflict on them the penalty of exorbitant costs. Much about the time when our remarks were penned, a Magistrate at a station not a hundred miles from Calcutta, had occasion to bring some powerful and wealthy landholders to his bar, for the most serious breaches of the peace committed by their orders, and it was well known that one of the parties had offered a reward of 5000 Rs. to any one who could defeat any flaw in the proceedings, by which the Magistrate might be brought within the reach of an action in the Supreme Court. In many other cases such threats have been held out, and thus the independence of judicial officers, which is of such inestimable value, has been seriously compromised. As it was well observed by one of the most enlightened advocates of this measure, "the tower in the Judge, the more likely was he to be brought from timidity under compliances, likely to be harassed by vexatious litigants."

Those who were opposed to this Act, and could see nothing in it but tyranny, and an undue consideration for the Civil Service, will now have their views cleared, and their fears dispelled. It

now appears that a judicial officer is not exempt from process in the Supreme Court for his judicial acts; and that if he is unable to account satisfactorily for his belief of his possessing jurisdiction in the case, he is liable to damages as much as though the Act had never existed. On the contrary, if he acts in good faith, he receives the full protection of the Court. An attempt has been made to show that this decision completely nullifies the Act of the Legislative Council, and that a Magistrate enjoys no greater protection than he did before it was passed. But we would carefully caution any of those who may be anxious to victimize a Magistrate who has given them offence, against the error of bringing a hasty action in the Supreme Court in the hope of being able to cast him in costs. We feel certain, that if this Act had been in existence when some previous actions were brought against Magistrates, the Supreme Court would have been enabled at once to acquit them.

The *Optimist* says, we have no valid authority for asserting that the Act was drafted by Sir Lawrence Peel, and that the assertion is a gratuitous slander on the Chief. We believe it to be no slander at all to any of any one that he was the author of the Act, but just the reverse. Our contemporary's opinion that "the Act must have been drafted by a man not only unacquainted with the practice of the law, but utterly ignorant of common legal principles, and that the very 'boots' of the Calcutta Bar might well be ashamed of such a draft" is—the opinion of our contemporary. We repeat with confidence the assertion we have made regarding the paternity of the Act, of which we feel as certain as that the *Optimist* is edited by a very factious barrister of the Supreme Court. The Act simply restores the strength and integrity of the 21st Geo. III. c. 70, s. 21, which was intended to render Magistrates more safe in the execution of their offices, but through which the Privy Council drove their coach and four in July 1840, when Baron Parke managed the ribbons.

**THE COMMERCE OF CALCUTTA, DURING THE LAST OFFICIAL YEAR.**—We have been favoured with a copy of Mr. Wilkinson's Commercial Annual for the year 1850-51, but as it reached us long after it had been in the hands of our contemporaries, they have forestalled nearly all the remarks which we might have had to make, and have thus rendered our task comparatively light.

The Imports into India during the commercial year under review have exceeded those of any former year. They amounted to 7,05,32,000 Rs. The exports have fallen off about 22 lakhs. They amounted to 10,72,80,000 Rs. The following is a comparative statement of the Imports and Exports in the past year and ten years ago:

Imports,	5,56,77,000	7,05,32,000 Rs.
Exports,	5,88,93,000	10,72,80,000 "

The Imports of merchandise from Great Britain, in the past year, have increased half a million over those of the previous year. They amounted in all to Rs. 4,54,89,000; the chief elements of this trade, may be thus represented:

Cotton twist, yarn	Ra.
and piece goods,	2,85,29,000
Metals, ...	50,84,000
Hardware, and	
Millinery	15,24,000
Wines, ...	11,13,000
Woolens and Wool-	
len stuffs, ...	11,10,000
Salt, duty excepted,	10,12,000

The Exports to Great Britain within this period were, Rs. 4,93,74,000, and this trade was made up chiefly of the following items:

Sugar, ...	Ra. 1,50,51,000
Indigo, ...	1,28,84,000
Raw Silk, ...	60,53,000
Silk Piece Goods, ...	39,93,000
Halt-pieces, ...	20,24,000
Jute, ...	19,10,000
Hides and Skins, ...	18,44,000

Our trade with France, consisted of Rs. 16,80,000 of Imports, and Rs. 46,88,000 of Exports. The Exports have fallen off Twenty-five lakhs in the article of Indigo.

From North America, the Imported notions and treasure were of the value of Rs. 8,82,000; while the Exports amounted to Rs. 53,98,000.

Our trade with China, which, after England, is our best customer, depends almost entirely on the single article of Opium. The depreciation of its price often occasions a fluctuation of a Million Sterling a year. In the past year, the Imports were 60 lakhs of Rupees, the Exports, 301 lakhs, more than Three Millions Sterling.

In reference to the increase of individual articles of Imports, it is worthy of remark that the import of Copper has increased from 38½ lakhs to 45 lakhs. The copper is used by the natives in the manufacture of brass vessels for domestic use; the increased importation of it, therefore, an index of the increase of social comfort. The import of this article from Sydney has been doubled in the last year. It has risen from a little more than Three lakhs to nearly Seven lakhs. The quantity of Iron imported is the same as it was ten years ago, or about 17 lakhs. In the article of *Books and Pamphlets*, we have just 23,000 in 1850-51, against 18,000 in the preceding year, but ten years ago, the imports were 30,000. This is a very large amount of empty boxes. The Coal imported from Great Britain was nearly double the quantity received the previous year, but there have been years of greater activity in import. The whole quantity thus imported was about 26,000 tons, while the quantity brought from the Burdwan collieries is about 100,000 tons. Hence, our consumption is 128,000 tons. But the quantity of fuel which will be required for burning the ballast and bricks for the first rail of rail now begun, will fall little short of 60,000 tons. Our imports of Millinery and haberdashery still keep going a-head. Ten years ago, they were to the value of 18 lakhs of Rupees; in the last year, 10 lakhs and a half. Hardware and Cutlery, notwithstanding the increasing taste for a European table among the natives, have not materially increased; in 1840-41, they were of the value of five lakhs, in the last year, about six lakhs.

In the important articles of Perfumery and Soap, we have fortunately taken a sudden start, and imported one lakh of Rupees worth more in 1850-51, than in the preceding year. How far this may be attributed to Sir Charles Napier's departure, we must leave others to decide. The average consumption at this Presidency does not exceed 20,000 Rs. a year. Again, in the articles of Plate and Jewellery, there has been a grievous falling off to the deep regret of our jewellers. Last year was a bright one to be sure, the importations having been Rs. 2,96,000, against only Rs. 1,57,000 in the preceding year, but ten years ago, the amount was, Rs. 3,80,000, and even that was not equal to those of the previous year.

The article of Salt must have a separate paragraph for the essential edification of Mr. D. C. Aylwin and his Nantwich Patrons, who will, we are confident, vote for the renewal of the

Company's Charter, when they learn from us, that whereas the import of salt from Great Britain to India, on an average of four years, 1838-39; '39-'40; '40-'41, and '41-'42, was only to the extent of 2,880 maunds, or about 100 tons in each year, in the last year, the Imports from Great Britain were, 10,12,968 maunds or 37,500 Tons! The only objection to the Monopoly, as it is called, in England, has thus been effectually removed. It is a singular fact that in the last year, the quantity of Salt imported by *Bes*, amounted to about 24,00,000 maunds, which has generally been considered as one-half the consumption of the Lower provinces. The duty received by Government in the last year on the Salt imported was 61 lakhs of Rupees.

In reference to *Exports* we find that the value of Bengal Silk Piece goods has been nearly stationary for the last ten years. In 1840-41, they amounted to 35,11,000 Rs. In 1850-51, to Rs. 36,13,000. The same may be said with regard to Sugar. Ten years ago, the quantity exported was 17,84,000 maunds, in the last year 17,85,000 maunds. In *Bes* Cotton, there has been an extraordinary stimulus of exports; the quantity has risen from 22,500 maunds in 1849-50, to 281,000 in 1850-51. The increase has taken place almost exclusively in our exports to China. Our exports of Raw Silk, still continue depressed. The exports in the last year, were of the value of 63,80,000, but this was 2½ lakhs less than in the preceding year, and 22 lakhs less than in 1841-42. The export of Rice has continued generally, for the last ten or twelve years without much fluctuation. We have 33 lakhs in 1840-41, against 35½ lakhs in the last year, whereas in 1849-50, the export touched 40 lakhs. In the Article of Opium, we have 38,000 maunds in the last year against 35,000 in the preceding; but as the cultivators are now permitted to raise as much as they chose, the exports will soon be increased. The article of Castor Oil, exhibits an extraordinary increase. Ten years ago, the export was only of the value of Rs. 131,000 in the last year, however, it amounted to more than Rs. 710,000. Strange to say, the export of Gunnies has fallen off from 16½ lakhs to 10½ lakhs, whereas ten years ago, 2½ lakhs formed the highest amount. Linseed presents the same gratifying impulse. In the year 1849-50, the export was of the value of 6,20,000 Rs., in 1850-51, Rs. 15,30,000; ten years ago, it was only 2,50,000 Rs. Of Safflower, we exported about 1½ lakh of Rupees worth ten years ago; in 1849-50, a little above 4 lakhs, and in the last year, 7½ lakhs. Teel seed, of which not one grain was exported ten years ago, supplied exports last year to the extent of Two lakhs and a quarter.

**THE NISTARPEE MISSION.**—We published in our issue of the 17th ultimo, a short account of the effort which is being made to improve the condition of the poor Christians attached to this Mission, and prospectively, of the whole body of weavers in Northern India. We intended to have noticed the communication at the time, but the demands upon our space increase so rapidly that we were compelled to postpone it. The whole of the native Christians in this Mission village, which is in the vicinity of Agra, are, as they ought to be, supported by their own exertions as weavers, and the Rev. J. Smith, the Missionary is making a

strong effort to improve the machinery by which they obtain their livelihood. He is desirous of introducing the English loom, and has already received from Scotland two hand looms, and a soldier, formerly a Manchester weaver, is instructing the people in the use of them. Mr. Smith desires to construct about Forty looms and a workshop, and for this purpose a sum of Rs. 4,000 will be necessary, for which he appeals to the public. His appeal has, we are glad to see, been generously responded to in the North West Provinces, and we have hopes that his interesting experiment will shortly be commenced. It is indeed deserving of the sympathies and assistance of all who have the cause of civilization at heart, as its results, if successful, will be of very great value, while it is free from the objection so frequently raised to such projects, that they tend to undermine the convert's sense of self-reliance. Nothing is to be given to the Christians, except superior facilities for exerting their own industry, and we heartily wish Mr. Smith every success in his benevolent design.

**THE MEDICAL, INVALID AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.**—For some time past a notice has appeared in the papers, of the establishment of a branch of this Institution in Calcutta, and a copy of the Prospectus has now been sent to us with a request that we would bring it to the notice of our constituents. To so reasonable a request it is impossible that we should turn a deaf ear; on the contrary, we consider ourselves bound as one of the "established organs of public intelligence," to give the public due information of whatever may be proposed for their benefit. The Company was established in London in 1841, and possesses a paid up capital of £500,000, subscribed by an influential proprietary body. It is formed on the principle of absolute security to Policy Holders, without any liability of demanding the most moderate rates of premium compatible with security, and of distributing two-thirds of the profit periodically among the assured. The Company has now resolved to extend its operations to Calcutta, and the peculiar claims which the Directors advance to the patronage of the British public in India, have reference to the fact that their rates are based on the records of the India House, which have been diligently investigated, and a return compiled of every Cadet, who entered the Service, from 1790 to 1849, together with the date of his appointment, and of his severance from the Service by retirement or death. The Society is thus enabled to charge a rate of Premium strictly corresponding with the risk incurred, and the charges of management. The rates which have been framed from the data at the India House, are stated to range, in the cases of the Civil Service, from 10 to 27 per cent., and, in the case of Military Lives, from 24 to 26 per cent. lower than the average rate of subscription usually charged in India.

The two questions which present themselves on every invitation to join an Assurance Company, are the economy of its rates, and the security of its establishment. The Prospectus affirms that an obscurity has hitherto hung over the law of mortality as applicable to European lives in India, which has interfered with the free development of the system of Life Assurances, and that the history of Life Assurance enterprise proves that the public has uniformly suffered during the experimental stages of these undertakings; in other words that the rate of Insurance has hitherto

been higher in India, than the necessity of the case required. This fact appears to be corroborated by the large returns made to the Policy Holders, by some of the existing societies, and it is quite possible that lower rates may be found compatible with uninterrupted security, which is the first of all considerations. In the rate of mortality among Europeans in India has decreased, there can be no doubt. It used formerly to be said that the Europeans in Calcutta who survived the deadly months of the rainy, were in the habit of meeting together at the beginning of the cold weather, and congratulating each other on having obtained another year's lease of life. There may be those even now living in whose days an undertaker wishing to retire, asked 10,000 Rs. more for his business if he sold it in the beginning of August, than if he parted with it at the beginning of November, because the intermediate three months were considered the great harvest of the fraternity. The community lived in houses with damp floors fatal to life; the windows never came down to the floor, but rested on a dead wall two or three feet high, and thus interfered with the ventilation of the rooms. There were no punkas, and no glass windows; and men drank long and deep. The traditional drinking achievements of those days, when men talked of having swallowed almost enough to fill a seventy-four, resembled rather the Scandinavian orgies of Odin, than the actions of reasonable men. At the present day, we are better lodged, we feed more rationally, and drink less, and consequently live longer, and, therefore, the rates of premium on Life Assurances should be adjusted to the moderate habits and prolonged existence of the present time, when the universal complaint, both in the Civil and Military services, is the general stagnation of promotion. It is upon this improved data of life, that the rates of premium in the Medical, Invalid and General Life Assurance Society, are said to be based, and that it appeals for support to the Indian public, to whose favorable notice we desire to commend it. The Company desire it to be distinctly understood, that "they have not been led into this course by any spirit of competition, or desire on their part to outbid others in the terms of business; but that they have adopted the present low scale of premiums on the ground that the European population in India should be assured on the same equitable terms as lives resident in Europe."

**MR. BETHUNE.**—We deeply regret to announce the death of the Hon. J. E. D. Bethune, which occurred at his own house at three o'clock on Tuesday, the 12th instant. He had been suffering for some weeks previously, from a belated abscess of the liver, and his physician ordered him immediately to Europe. The advice came, however, too late. He has left behind him a name that will be long remembered with gratitude for his persevering efforts in the cause of education. The sad intelligence reached too late for us to attempt a sketch of his Indian career, but we will endeavour to give one next week.

**THE PACHE.**—We expressed a few weeks ago our fear that something had occurred to delay the *P.* and O. Company's steamer *Pache*, and we learn to-day that our fears were only too well founded. The *Erin* bound from Calcutta to China, came into collision with the *Pache* on her return voyage off Cape Formosa, at midnight on the 21st July. The *Pache* went down with five minutes after the shock, in 25 fathoms water, carrying with her the Surgeon Dr. Breece, the 3rd off-



cor, and fifteen of the crew. The *Packs* had fifteen lakhs of Rupees in specie on board, the whole of which is irrecoverably lost. The *Eric* also was severely damaged by the accident, and private letters say that all the opium on board has been damaged. We hope the latter statement is exaggerated, as the carried about 1000 Chests. She has been beached at Singapore for repairs. This is a most disastrous event, both for the P. and O. Company, and also for the public, as it interrupts that monthly communication with the Straits and China which had been established with so much spirit.

**MANUAL OF SURVEYING IN INDIA.**—We have just been favoured with a copy of "A Manual of Surveying for India, detailing the mode of operations on the Revenue Surveys in Bengal, and the North West Provinces, prepared for the use of the Survey Department, and published by the Authority of the Government of India. Compiled by Captains R. Smyth and H. L. Thullier, Bengal Artillery." The compilers state in their Preface that scarcely one of the many English works on Geodesy extant afford any practical insight into the system of Survey as carried on in, and particularly applicable to, this country; and that a work like the present forming a complete Manual, condensing what was to be found in a vast number of standard and expensive works, and embodying the precise *Modus Operandi* of the Department, appeared now to be called for. And well have the compilers performed the duty which they have undertaken. The work before us affords a most perfect Manual of Indian Surveying, and is admirably calculated to meet the requirements of the department. But, it is a thick octavo volume, of more than 700 pages, and any critical examination of it, even if we were qualified for the task, would require far more space than our limited columns can afford. All that we can therefore do on the present occasion, is to present the reader with a very concise analysis of its contents.

It is divided into Five parts. The First is devoted to an explanation of the principles of Geometry, Trigonometry, Logarithms and the Mensuration of Plans, and concludes with some useful problems in Surveying. The Second, which extends through 120 pages, treats of the nature and use of the various instruments used in surveying—the chain; the perambulator; the prismatic and surveying compass; the most important of all instruments used in the department, the theodolite, and the method of observing with it; the sextant; the spirit level; the transit instrument, and the method of using it; the various mathematical drawing instruments; the scales; and the instruments for plotting a survey. The Third Part gives us the leading principles of the several modes of Surveying, and then proceeds to furnish a few hints for the general guidance of the surveyor. It then enters into details of Surveying, first, by the Chain only, and secondly by the Chain accompanied by Angular Instruments, and gives full directions for plotting, or draughting the survey on paper; it afterwards treats of offsets, and the various practical methods of finding areas, including the reduction of inclined to horizontal planes. The 11th Chapter of this Part, gives us the strength of a Levelling Survey establishment, and the detailed duties of its component officers. The 12th Chapter describes a double establishment, such as those employed in the North West Provinces and in Behar, is 37,524 Rs. a year. The single establishment employed in Bengal costs only 31,870 Rs. a year. The general duties of a survey establishment are divided into two grand heads, viz. Field and Reccon. The field operations commence in October in Bengal in November—and continue to the 1st of June. The work then proceeds to describe the mode in which the operations of the present Survey at this Presidency are conducted, and the various duties of the different grades of officers, and the commencement and effective periods of these labors, as well as the method of preparing and surveying—viz. direct, and filling in topographical details. The next Chapter refers to the military branch of the subject, and concludes on Route Surveying and Military recon-

nois, the want of which was so deplorably felt in the last English campaign, when it was found that after more than two years' occupation of the country, we were totally destitute of all information concerning it.

The 15th, and six subsequent Chapters have been entirely composed by a Native, Baboo Radhanath Sikdar, described by the authors as "the distinguished head of the computing department of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, and a gentleman whose intimate acquaintance with the rigorous forms and mode of procedure adopted on the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, and great acquirements and knowledge of scientific subjects generally, rendered his aid particularly to be desired. They state that it is impossible for them to describe with sufficient force the obligations under which they feel to him. Those who have been accustomed to undervalue native intellect will be surprised to find the depth of scientific knowledge exhibited in the Chapters which he has furnished for the work, and which we are anxious on the credit of his position to mention. His contributions are "on the Ray Trace system of the Great Trigonometrical Survey. The computation of Geodesical Triangles; of latitudes and longitudes and azimuths of Trigonometrical Stations; and of Heights. On Minor Triangulation, and as applied to the Ray Trace system, for carrying on topographical surveys. The principles of the position of the stations. Observations made thence to three known stations, and the reduction of angles to the centre of a station; and the method of describing the graticule of maps." The other Chapters in this Part, from the pen of the Compiler, relate to Barometrical heights and Levelling and the connection between the Great Trigonometrical and Revenue Survey, and the ratio of error.

The Fourth Part treats of the Khuras, or field measurement, done in the native mode, by Native Ameen and native appliances; the mode of procuring it, and the expense it involves. The whole of this part has reference to the system of Native Measurement, as practised in connection with these operations, as distinguished from the Scientific Survey, and will convey very useful information to those who are engaged in this department, but a portion of it belongs also to the statistics of the operations, to which we intend to devote a separate article, as soon as an opportunity occurs. The statements thus given relative to the Surveys at this Presidency are too important to be passed over in a cursory manner, and we shall therefore endeavor to collect them together from the Chapters through which they are scattered. The Fifth Chapter on Practical Astronomy, and its application to Surveying, has been composed by Radhanath Sikdar, the distinguished Native officer to whom we have already alluded, and will be found fully to support the estimation passed on his eminent abilities by Captains Smyth and Thullier.

We have been thus particular in describing the various subjects treated of in this work, from a conviction that this would be most effectually made of the importance and value of the treatise. It will be seen that it furnishes an ample and complete Manual of the Science of Surveying for all those who may now, or who may hereafter be employed in this department, and the gentlemen to whom we are indebted for it have conferred the most essential benefit on the country. The above summary of the work is illustrated throughout by explanatory maps, and diagrams, which serve in no small measure to increase its utility. But few can be expected to qualify themselves for this department, by the unaided study of the work; and it is therefore greatly to be desired, that the Government of Bengal will follow the example of the Government of the North West Provinces, and establish a College of Civil Engineering in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, on the model of the noble institution which Mr. Thomson has founded at Roorkee, and which reflects such credit on the British Government in India. There would then be some small excuse for devoting so large a portion of the time of the students in the Government Colleges to the study of Mathematics, because these acquisitions, which are now so utterly useless in the Courts, and the public Offices, might then be turned to a useful account.

**THE EAST INDIA CALCULATOR'S MANUAL.**—We have received a copy of the second edition of this valuable publication, and have to take every opportunity of bearing our testimony to its value. It contains a great number of rules for simplifying the ordinary operations of Arithmetic, some of which are really of the highest utility. In others, we think, the author has allowed his desire to exhibit new methods to counterbalance his judgment, for instance, when he advises us in like division, the method of multiplying by seven, to add an unit to the multiplicand and then divide it by two, then multiply it by two, and add the product to the quotient. We think Mr. Knott would also add to the usefulness of his work, by giving the native mode of counting rupees and annas, which is infinitely more simple, and easy and rapid than the system employed by Europeans. A chapter on the theory of Book-keeping which has been appended to the book is worth studying, though we do not think it will teach much to those who are not previously acquainted with the system it advocates. We have only to add, that the price of the work has been reduced to Rs. 15, and that its typographical execution is admirable.

**TABLE OF HINDOO SUCCESSION BY PROSUNO KROOMAR TAYLOR.**—We have received a copy of this table, which is drawn out in the shape of a map, and contains a most elaborate and detailed list of the inheritances of our property, personal or real, according to Hindoo Law. Of the extreme minuteness of the laws which have gradually been elaborated by Hindoo law-givers, on this subject, none but those who have studied them can have any conception. They would puzzle Sir Harris Nicolson himself. The list is, we have no doubt, perfectly accurate, and will be of great use to those who have to study the subject professionally, but we do not think it is quite so periphrastic as it might be made. We think, that if we drew up strictly in the form of an English genealogical tree, it would be easier of comprehension, at least in Englishmen, for whose instruction we suppose it is intended. Prosunoo Kroomar Taylor could hardly perform greater service to his country than by the publication of a work, more extended than the present, in which not only the practice but the principles of Hindoo succession should be laid down.

**CALCUTTA REVIEW.**—The present number of this excellent publication, though a little late in the field, is fully up to the average in the number and character of its articles. On the first three contributions, we shall have something to say at another time; for the present, therefore, we must confine our notice to the lighter papers. The article on Bengalee games and amusements is really admirable, and throws a strong light on the domestic life of the people. The most general of all games in Bengal, as in every other country in Asia, is Chess, and the reviewer has given some interesting particulars of the modifications to which it has been subjected by the peculiarities of the people. The old game, from which the Bengalee game Chaturanga, or "Four-limbed" is derived, has gone out, and its excessive complication renders it difficult of acquisition to any one, who has not been regularly trained to its mysteries. Even now, however, there is one popular variety of the game which is far more complicated than the European Chess, and which has been known to occur three weeks before it was first held. It is called *Kota*, and the peculiarity consists in the limitation of the powers of the Queen and Bishop, the former being allowed only the same *p* as the King, while the latter can pass over only three squares at a time. The Reviewer is erroneous in his saying that all the moves in the Bengalee are the same as those of the English game. They differ, very considerably, inasmuch as the Native, having no lack of time, does not allow the first double movement of the pawns, an improvement evidently introduced by a northern race, anxious to get at once into the thick of the battle. The right of casting the king is also seldom allowed, though the movement is well known to those skilled in the game. Into the mysteries of "Pasha," "Ashta Kasha," "Mongol Pushan," (a variety of draughts), and the eternal games of cards, we cannot enter. Like all genuine

oriental races, the Bengalees are passionately addicted to gambling, and one of the wisest laws of Munro is that which makes betting in any shape, a crime of the deepest dye. The respectable natives generally avoid playing for stakes, but among the lower classes the habit of gambling is frightfully prevalent, and from the national abstinence of self control, the man who once becomes addicted to it never stops till he is either utterly ruined, or in a gulf of penitence. The paragraph upon the native jugglers which follows is very imperfect, as there can be no doubt, that there are certain deceptions familiar to native adepts which the "Wizard of the North" could not imitate. The trick of sitting in the air we have ourselves witnessed, though without the remotest idea how the delusion was produced. The man certainly had nothing under him, except a sword attached to his wrist. This article is said to have been written by a native, and the habit of observation which it exhibits does him much credit, as the accuracy of the language in which it is communicated.

The article on Sir Thomas Munro, and the Land Tax, is an admirable sketch of the successful efforts of that great man to "settle" Canara, and the Balaghat Territory, in the course of which the Reviewer goes rather deeply into the general question of the Indian land tenures. We have not space to follow him through his sketch of the fiscal operations for those districts, but we must not omit to state, which he arrives. He believes, that the average of the modern land tax, estimating it at one-fourth the produce, is precisely the same as that levied by the ancient Hindoo Kings. This may be true of the Southern provinces, but the Reviewer seems inclined to give the statement a very wide application, and he has overlooked the excessive inequalities in the assessment, which have rendered some of the settlements, particularly the great one in Bengal, very objectionable. The following table of the produce of the land tax in different Oriental Empires is interesting:—

In the ancient Persia the produce tax was equivalent to one-tenth of the produce.  
Persia (modern) one-fifth.  
Egypt (ancient or modern) one-fifth.  
Roman Empire, (decree) one-tenth.  
Greece, one-tenth to one-fourth.  
Athens, one-twentieth.  
Carthage, one-half (in war).  
Babylon Empire, one-tenth.  
Turkey, one-tenth.  
China, one-tenth.  
Modern Greece, one-twentieth.  
Levitical Lands, (tithes) one-tenth to one-fourth.  
India (ancient) one-tenth to one-fourth.

The estimate for Egypt is, we believe, incorrect, as whatever the theoretical proportion may be, the mode of its collection makes it infinitely heavier. The ryot, or fellah, pays to the Pasha the whole of his produce, minus what he can conceal, and a share is then given back to him. This share may perhaps be four-fifths, though we were informed by an officer, who had been many years in the service of Ali Pasha, that it never amounted to two-thirds, but in any case it has to pass through four grades of officials. Of course, no inconsiderable proportion sticks to their hands,—upon the internal maxim that the hands through which money passes must be defiled,—and the unfortunate cultivator is left with a paltry sum, which he is obliged to use with an Egyptian fellah.

The article on Military Law is written with a clearness and force which indicates a perfect knowledge of his subject on the part of the writer, but we have only space to mention one fact of the highest importance to the Indian Army, which is, that some of our officers who have expressed their adherence to the scheme of Young Promotion. The author of the work under review, Mr. Prendergast, Esq., Barrister at Law, asserts that all "transactions for inducing the retirement of senior officers by pecuniary considerations are utterly illegal and void in themselves, and expose all parties, without exception, to criminal proceedings, such transactions, to a prosecution for misdemeanour before the Supreme Courts in India, or the Court of Queen's Bench at Westminster." The despatch of the Court of Directors, dated 23rd November, 1857, which expressly permits officers to purchase out their seniors, does not alter the case, as the illegality of such transactions is determined by an Act

of Parliament, and cannot be affected by any resolution of the Court. The Reviewer is mistaken with great justice, that although nothing is less probable than that an officer should bring a suit of the kind against his own comrades, it is quite possible that some officer dismissed the service, may institute such a suit to recover the shares he has himself paid for promotion bonuses, and in such an event every officer of the Regiment might be amenable to law damages.

The period embraced by Sir J. E. TENNENT'S CHRISTIANITY IN CEYLON forms an interesting episode in the history of Missions, and is the most complete justification that we have ever seen of Robert Hall's axiom, that persecution which stops short of extermination inevitably strengthens the persecuted faith. The Portuguese, as soon as they had obtained possession of a portion of Ceylon, determined to make the natives Christians, which they did to great extent at the point of the bayonet. The same policy has in more modern times, been followed by the Spaniards in the Philippine Isles, and we believe there is not a native in Manila, who does not instantly kneel at the sound of the bell which precedes the Mass. The Dutch, who followed the Portuguese as the rulers of Ceylon, copied them also in their plans of conversion, and the Singhalese who had crowded in thousands to hear the Ave Maria, now crowded to repeat the Helvetic Confession of Faith, without which they could obtain no employment from the Government. So complete were the measures of the Dutch Government, that in 1802, there were 136,000 Protestants among the Tamils of Jaffna,—and in 1800, not one! The instant the external pressure was removed, the people, whose minds had never been affected went back to the faith of their fathers. Of the present influence of Protestant Missions in Ceylon, except as they are upon pure principles, we shall say nothing beyond repeating the author's opinion, that sound Christianity is really making progress in the island.

ON KATE'S WAR IN AFFRICA we do not touch at present. We must see the book to judge whether it be a History, or a mere vehicle for party feelings, like the Article in the *Calcutta Review* of two numbers ago; "Dixon's Malwara" deserves a more extended notice at our hands than we can profess to give in a summary like this. THE WANDERINGS OF A PILGRIM IN THE EAST is the work of Mrs. Parkes's clever work on India, on which there is an amusing though somewhat severe article. The Reviewer gives Mrs. Parkes full credit for the fidelity and picturesque character of her delineations of native Society, but passes a heavy and we think rather too stern a censure upon the coarseness into which her orientalised ideas have occasionally betrayed her.

## WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7.

—The Calcutta correspondent of the *Bombay Times* says, that the negotiations between the Porte and the Pasha respecting the introduction of the Tausiant, or Reform Bill into Egypt are not yet concluded. It is believed that the Porte are willing to consent to a modification of the original plan, which the Pasha will be left in full possession of the *de jure* arrangement to him by treaty. ALBANIA has the latest intelligence in its own family, who are doing a noble work in the country.

—The London correspondent of the *Bombay Telegraph* and *Courier* continues, that the Court has granted a pension of £100 a year to Major Edwards, in consideration of the reward he received for the capture of a pirate in his belated Mediterranean. A pension of £150 a year has also been granted to Major Cooke, who was lately dismissed from the Bengal Army for gambling. The pension was granted in consideration of his having served the Government with fidelity thirty years. It is also said that Captain Fagill will in all probability be restored to the service.

—The *Bombay Gazette* notices, that the Libel case of the *London Express* against the *Jameson* and *Jameson* merchants, has been compromised without a reference to the Supreme Court.

—The *Malacca Gazette* notices the erection of a monument in the parish Church of that town to the memory of Lieut. Col. William Havelock, and a few of his comrades who were slain in the Punjab campaign.—To the right of a full length figure, in the uniform of the regiment, with a military cloak, resting principally on the right shoulder. One arm rests upon the shoulder of a youth, and the other is outstretched with the hand pointing to the inscription, on a tablet, which is inscribed with the deeds of the heroes whose names

are recorded. On the left is a palm tree, with the words "drooping over the tablet, on which rest the names of the heroes, and a cartouche box. At the foot of the palm tree is the regimental shield. The monument is executed by Westmacott."

—A Native paper, translated in the *Harbinger*, informs us, that all the parties dispossessed of their lands or houses for the purposes of the Railway, in the villages of Malabar, Bellary, and Coimbatore, had sent in a petition, containing a statement of their claims. We should like to know for what portion of the lands taken for the Railway operations they have been compensated, as they are entitled to a compensation having received the value of scarcely more than one-half the ground from which they have been evicted.

—We regret to notice the death of Lieutenant Mr. D. D. D., Adjutant of the 7th Regiment, N. I. He died at Dacca on the 23rd instant of jungle fever.

—The *Englishman* reports, that Mr. C. S. Stevens is about to start another steam ferry from Colton's Giant, if he can obtain permission from the Chief Magistrate. This is, we believe, the fifth ferry lately started between Colton and the various Ghats on the opposite bank.

—The same journal notices the extreme paucity of recruits in the 44th Regiment N. I. at Barrackpore. By the death of Major J. Anderson, the command of the Regiment devolves on a Lieutenant, with four Lieutenants and five Brevet majors, making up a complement of Ten Officers. The Lieutenant Colonel is on the Committee of Enquiry into the state of the Commissariat Department, the Major is an Civil Certificate, the Senior Captain is on Civil Employment, four Junior Captains are on Civil Employment, and four of the Lieutenants are in Civil Employment, or in irregular Regiments.

—We give the following important notification a prominent place in our column, as it relates to the Government of the Directors of the East India Company, by virtue of the power vested in them by section 21 of the Act 4, George IV., chapter 83, been pleased to declare that the Settlements of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore, and Malacca shall cease to be subordinate to the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal, and have inherited the Governor of the said settlements with the powers heretofore exercised by the Government of the Presidency of Bengal, subject to the control of the Government of India. It is hereby notified for general information, that from and after the first day of September next, the Settlements of Prince of Wales Island, Singapore and Malacca will exercise those powers of local administration in regard to those Settlements which have hitherto been reserved for the Government of Bengal." We reserve our remarks for the next week.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8.

—There are 4,374 Lawyers in New York, or about one per cent. of the whole population. It must be a large City. There are, however, only 37,379 Lawyers in the United States, or, as nearly as possible, one to every thousand persons.

General Orders of the 29th July, contain the trials of two privates for striking non-commissioned officers, and both are sentenced to seven years' transportation. If this kind of punishment is allowed to continue, the Commander-in-Chief will have to transport whole regiments. When once the feeling of disgrace is removed, there is nothing the soldier's life in India, that can make him dread transportation. He gets a free passage to a better country, and a better climate, and, as a military officer carries with him the idea of moral guilt, he soon obtains a ticket of leave, and finds himself in an infinitely better position, and with better prospects, than he ever would have expected to the regiment.

—The *Englishman* understands, that a Joint Stock Company has been formed in England for the manufacture of iron and steel. It is a company of 100,000 shares, each of £100. The shares are identical with those from which the great steel of China is made. The share, according to our contemporary, who writes as an authority, is a very valuable security, and is well adapted to all kinds of business and commerce. The plan (which is capable of being cultivated in Assam to an almost extent, and the crop averages nine mounds of iron to the acre).

—Notwithstanding the rapid increase of communication in late years between England and India, the amount of ignorance displayed by the Editors of some of the London journals with regard to Indian questions, does not appear to be diminished. The *United Service Journal* gravely informs its readers, that the North West Frontier are flourishing under the vigorous rule of the British Government, while the *Illustrated London News*, says, "the great event of the fortnight at Bombay was the triumphant acquittal of Jussu Parnau." The same journal has been publishing whole pages of editorials upon Indian finances, in which every third figure carries a fallacy.

—The *Agnes Magazine* reports, that the Curry of the Commissioner-in-Chief will be attended to by the Government, whence his Embassy journey proceeds at once to Peshawar.

—The following piece of quiet aggressiveness is from the *New York Herald*, republished in the *Chronicle*.—"Our population is called upon to extend their golden profits into those regions which have been so unexplored, and which may yet yield huge treasures to the world. A stranger to the scene that now presents itself





CONTEMPORARY SELECTIONS.

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

**ECENTRIC DUEL**

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC

[illegible]

















# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

NOTICE OVERLAND EXPRESS MAIL VIA DOMINY.  
"ORIENTAL," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for India, and the intermediate Ports (Calcutta, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steamship "Oriental," will be closed at this Office, on Saturday, the 24th Proximo, at 10 o'clock, and that an after packet will be despatched on Monday, the 26th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Redegere, in time to reach the India Office. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Oriental can be received after 2 p. m. of that date.

NOTICE OVERLAND EXPRESS MAIL VIA DOMINY.  
NOTICE is hereby given that no person's Packet containing exclusively of Overland letters, not exceeding the prescribed Maximum weight of 40 lbs. in the aggregate, intended for conveyance by the Steamer appointed to leave Bombay on the 1st Proximo, will be closed at and despatched from this Office on Thursday, the 21st Idem, and that no letter above one Tola in weight, or any brought after 2 p. m. on that date (whether the above-mentioned weight be completed or not) will on any account be received for transmission by this opportunity; the Public are particularly requested to take notice of this to avoid disappointment.

No more than two Tolas weight of letters can be "sent" on such occasion by any one Firm or Individual.  
J. R. BURNES BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge,  
Calcutta, Genl. Post Office, the 19th August, 1851.

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THE LATE J. E. DRISWATER BETHUNE.  
Few public men among us have ever had their conduct, both official and private, scrutinized with more severity and less generosity, than the late legislative member of Council. Few men have ever been subjected to greater unpopularity by the part they have taken in public affairs, and few have ever collected around them a larger band of friends and admirers. Mr. Bethune's unpopularity, however, may be said to have been most exclusively on account of the Act which gave so much offence to the British settlers in India, and were therefore denominated Black, yet nothing is more probable than that these same Acts, with some modification, will obtain the sanction of Parliament, and be incorporated in the next Charter. Still, for the time, the agitation created by the Acts biased a large portion of the public against him, and, as usual, those who were offended to take an unfavourable view of everything connected with his conduct and proceedings. But for the association of his name with these two or three drafts, the occasional aberrations with which he was chargeable would probably have passed without notice, and as in the case of other men, a liberal allowance would have been made for the weakness of human nature. Even supposing, though not granting, that the Acts in question were open to all the objections stated by their most virulent opponents, yet it is altogether premature to heap on the head of the Legislative member of Council, all the odium which, whether justly or unjustly, they gave rise to. No one can form a correct or satisfactory judgment on this subject, unless he has before him the antecedents and the history of each enactment, and the opinions of those experienced servants of the state which were submitted to the Council, and which influenced their decision. Though the Legislative member may be considered the legal adviser of the Council, yet the Acts themselves do not always originate with him. They are suggested by the wants of the times, and the course of circumstances, and the progress of pub-

lic opinion, as represented to Government by men of influence in or out of the Company's Service. When the period appears to have arrived for legislative action on any of these subjects, the task of preparing the Act, and superintending its progress and completion devolves on the Legislative member.

Mr. Bethune came out to this post after having been for many years employed in the drafting of Acts of Parliament, and there can be no doubt that among the numerous adherents of the Whigs to whom the place would have been so desirable, Mr. Bethune was selected for his law-making experience. We do not think that he was as successful in the execution of these duties as the public had reason to expect, and he certainly did not devote such a proportion of his time and attention to his legislative labours as the country had a right to demand. If he had objected that he possessed no great amount of legal experience, and had enjoyed but little legal practice at home, the same may be said of two, at least, of his predecessors, Mr. Macaulay and Mr. Cameron. Perhaps Mr. Amos was the only Legislative member entitled to the character of an eminent lawyer. Neither, indeed, does it appear to us that a very great lawyer would be so very useful in that position. The main ideal of the Legislative member of Council has always appeared to us to be that he should be thoroughly grounded in the broad principles of English law, yet unfettered by its niceties and technicalities, and that by constant intercourse with men of experience in this country, and by personal enquiry and observation in the interior, he should make himself perfect master of all the various interests of India, and the causes and results of our institutions, so as to be able to detect and correct the errors of previous legislation, and to supply its deficiencies.

Mr. Bethune's claim to the warm and lasting gratitude of the country rests on the great efforts which he made to promote the cause of education among the natives. To this unobscuring object he devoted his energies with unexampled zeal. Though the successive Presidents of the Council of Education have generally taken a considerable interest in its movements, yet none of them appear to have labored with such peculiar assiduity to stimulate and encourage the educational improvement of the natives, and it reflects no little honor on the native community that they have been so eager to testify their gratitude to his memory for these exertions, notwithstanding the Liberty of Conscience Act. Mr. Bethune's pecuniary liberality was unexampled. His munificence was the theme of universal admiration. He seemed to have no other idea of the use of money than that it was intended to be given away. From the period of his arrival in India, he is understood to have determined that the whole sum which he received for his public services should be expended in the country, and chiefly, in objects of public benevolence; and from this rule he never deviated. The number of native youths to whom he gave small monthly stipends that they might be enabled to prosecute their studies, would scarcely be credited. But the object to which his energies were particularly directed, was the Education of Native Females. He was resolved to spare no labor or expense to introduce a beneficial change in the current of

popular opinion on this subject, and to induce the influential members of Native Society to elevate the character of their females by means of instruction. The School which he founded, is stated to have cost him 700 Rs. a month. Towards the noble edifice in Cornwallis Square, which he endeavored to raise for this object, he had already paid Rs. 30,000, and before his decease he made over an equal sum towards its completion, and appropriated funds for maintaining it during the next six months. During his last illness, the one peculiar object of his solicitude was the maintenance of this Institution, which he bequeathed to Government by a codicil to his Will.

Mr. Bethune never made an enemy except in what he considered the strict performance of his official duties, and it would be difficult to name one who has left a larger circle of sincere and attached friends. Though of a jovial disposition he was rigid and conscientious in his adherence to all the rules of morality, and notwithstanding the disadvantages of his political training and associations in England, was generally liberal and enlarged in his views, and anxious on all occasions to regulate his public conduct by the strict principles of justice. One of the most objectionable of all his public measures was the alterations which he introduced into the Indian Marriage Bill, but we have reason to believe, that if his life had been prolonged, he would have spared no pains to repair the injuries which that Act, as it came out of the hands of the Council, cannot fail to inflict on the interests and feelings of those whom it affects; and in him we have, we fear, lost the most sincere advocate for its modification.

A meeting of his friends was convened at Sir James Colville's residence last week, when it was resolved to raise a fund in honor of his memory, and, as the most suitable mode of commemorating his labors, to appropriate it to the maintenance of the noble institution which he so cheerfully founded. A sum of more than 6000 Rs. was subscribed immediately, and we sincerely hope it will receive such large additions from the donations of his friends and admirers, as may afford the most material assistance in sustaining the school.

THE MAGISTRATE'S PROTECTION ACT.—In the judgment delivered by Sir Lawrence Peel, in the case of Lang vs. Gubbins on Saturday last, he referred to the statement which had been made in this journal as to the paternity of the Act, and said: "I observe that it has been stated, that I drafted this Act, and that I possess peculiar knowledge of the real intention of the Legislature in framing it. I possess no such knowledge..... I did not draft or compose this Act. I never saw it, that I remember, before it was in print, and was never consulted on its preparation, or had the slightest previous communication about it, or with any member of the Legislative Council, or of the Indian Government before the Draft Act was printed or published for general information."

On turning to our own article on this point, we regret to find that we have indicated that the Act was drafted by



vention with which it was undertaken." The Court of Directors and the Board of Control took the earliest opportunity to express their warm approbation of his conduct. The Court of Proprietors by a large majority concurred in that approbation. The Privy Council, composed of Lord Eldon, the two Chief Justices, the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Baron, Lord Stowell, Lord Tenterden, and Sir Henry Russell rejected Mr. Buckingham's appeal against the conduct of the Bengal Government, and thus confirmed its Acts. But more than all this, the Governor of Madras, not Mr. Hugh Elliott, but Sir Thomas Munro, stated that "the plan Mr. Adam adopted, and the temper and decision with which he carried it into effect, secured public authority, and the character of Government. By that he rendered a very important service to our Indian Empire." I scarcely know any Act of the Supreme Government of which I should have liked as well to have been the author: for in India, it requires more firmness and real patriotism to regulate the press than in England to assert its freedom." Even the good and enlightened Governor of Bombay, not Sir Erskine Peel, but Mount Stewart Elphinstone, wrote against the freedom of the Press. "Nothing can exceed the praise which every body in Bengal bestows on John Adam's administration; which is the basis of his credit, as much of his employment has been of an unpopular nature—the restriction on the press in particular; but the inconsistency of a free press when nothing else is free, or intended to be free, is too obvious to escape you."

Our readers need not to be informed that the whole of these ideas are now as obsolete, and as much repudiated as the Ptolemaic system; that within thirteen years after the Government of India, the Court of Directors, the Court of Proprietors, the Board of Control, the Privy Council, and even two of the best men who ever ruled Bombay and Madras, had declared restrictions on the press essential to the security of the empire, the press was made free by law, and that in the fifteen years which have since elapsed, the most unreserved, and often, the most malvolent remarks have been made on the Government, and on its measures and motives, and the conduct of its highest functionaries, in times of war, when the empire trembled in the balance, as well as in times of peace, in the European and in the native community, in English and Bengalee, in Hindoo and Persian, in Marhatta and Goozeratta—yet the empire stands firm and unshaken, and its administration has been purified and strengthened, by bringing its officers under the wholesome control of public opinion;—and the Court itself has now done tardy justice to the man whom all the public authorities in India and England concurred in banishing from Calcutta for the freedom of his remarks. All the fears which were entertained of the danger arising from perpetually "exhibiting the highest authorities as objects of insult," have disappeared. It is found that the more "perpetually" our journal indulges in these attacks, the less it is regarded. It is marvellous to see how utterly impotent a paper becomes as soon as it is known that abuse of all men in authority is the staple of its manufacture. It is treated like all other cases of monomania; but neither the State nor its officers suffer in the smallest degree from it.

**THE CIVIL ANNUITY FUND.**—The meeting of the members of Civil Annuity fund which has been looked for with deep interest for

many weeks, came off on Monday, the 11th Instant, but the result was only published in the *Calcutta Gazette* last Saturday evening. The number of Civilians present was unusually large, not fewer than Forty-one. The gentlemen of the Press were in attendance, but it seems to be the standing practice at these meetings to inform them that their presence is not required. The Secretary therefore made the usual announcement, and they took their departure. As soon as the meeting was constituted, it was proposed that they should be admitted, and the proposal was carried by 15 to 7, but they had left the Hall before it could be communicated to them. After a motion for Mr. Colvin which was not carried, the Memorial to the Court of Directors proposed by the Committee, was placed before the meeting, and the first clause was proposed, viz. that all the members contribute four per cent. of their emoluments during the whole period of their continuance in the service, "without claim to the refund of any part of their contributions under any circumstances whatever." Mr. Harvey proposed, and Mr. Blunt supported, the proposal, that the words we have placed between inverted commas, be omitted. After a protracted discussion, there appeared to be, for the original proposal, 218, and against it, 119. The proposal was accordingly not carried under Rule 20. In connection with this branch of the subject, it was proposed in the fourth, Clause that the unappropriated capital of the Fund, after setting apart the sum necessary to meet the value of all unexpired annuities, be not allowed to fall below the sum of 36,15,000 Rs. to which Mr. Blunt proposed an amendment to the effect that the obvious,—he might have said, the designated office,—such a rule would be to appropriate to the purposes of the fund, the sum exceeding Seven lakhs of Rupees, that is, the excess contributions of the members of the half value of the annuity, to which claims had been preferred which were now under the consideration of the Court of Directors. The proposal was supported by 220, and opposed by 107. It was therefore lost under Clause 26.

These two propositions refer of course to the important question of the refund of the excess subscriptions to those who originally joined the Fund, which has occupied so much of the attention of the service during the last two or three months. Both of them have been omitted from the Memorial, though voted by a numerical majority. We could have wished that the majority of the service had determined to vote to the refund to all those who voluntarily joined the fund with this object in view. The number of refunds to those who came in afterwards, under a compulsory security. This would have been a gratuitous and generous act, even if the subscribers were not disposed to allow it to be an act of justice and equity. The present proposal looks very much as if the members had said, "Here are some thirty or forty old gentlemen who have chosen to linger in the service much longer than was either advantageous or agreeable to us juniors, and now they require us to reward them for having blocked up the path of promotion, by refunding the several lakhs of Rupees which they have paid over and above the value of their annuity. It is true, they refer us to the assurance given by the Court of Directors when inviting them to join the Fund, that they would have to pay no more than this value, and to the subsequent confirmation of this Rule by the Court, when they stated that if an excess had been paid, it was one of the principles of the Institution to

refund it, but we have explained away both these declarations to our own entire satisfaction; and we propose, therefore, that instead of giving up those several lakhs of Rupees to those who claim them, they should be appropriated to our own benefit." For our parts, if we happened to belong to the service, we should already feel comfortable in deriving any benefit from funds, compulsorily contributed by fellow servants, to which they continued to lay claim upon grounds which it was no easy matter to rebut. It now remains for the Court of Directors to decide the question, and to give effect to their own repeated declaration regarding the limited sum which each Civilian was to pay for his annuity, or to find some reasonable grounds for refusing to refund the excess. It will not do for them to take shelter under the votes of the service, and say, that they are prepared to restore the excess if two-thirds of the members will pass a vote in favor of such a measure. Their will overrides all these votes, and in the position they occupy, as having the entire and absolute control of all the means of the Fund, it is their bounden duty to see justice done according to the principles enunciated by themselves. In the present instance, moreover, where the interest of the service who have overpaid their subscriptions, and that of the junior members, lies in opposite directions, it is the business of the Court to increase as unfair, and adjudicate according to the principles of equity.

The other important measure brought forward at the meeting was a proposal to allow every subscriber to retire at the end of twenty-five years' service with his Pension, (it is called by that name) of £500 a year, and an annuity equal to his accumulated subscription at the time. And it is now, directly to be noted that the Court will grant this reasonableness of the request. The meeting has also memorialized the Court to allow of the retirement of Ten instead of Nine annuitants every year. But we trust the time is not far distant, when the Civil Service will be placed on the same footing as all the other branches of the public Service, and every man will be permitted to retire at the end of twenty-five years with his pension of £500 a year from the State, and with whatever annuity he may be entitled to by his subscriptions. We publish another letter on the subject of a Bonus Fund, which we recommend to the especial notice of our readers. The Service is well able to raise the sum required, and it would serve to quicken promotion; but to render it effectual, it appears to be necessary, that the restriction on the number of annual annuitants should be taken off. Were every man at liberty to retire at the end of his period of Service, a bonus of 20,000 Rs. would prove a very desirable stimulant, and rapidly clear the board of the more valuable places, leaving the coast open for the advance of the pawns.

**THE HAYLEYBURY COMMORATION.**—The last mail brings us a report of the sayings and doings at Hayleybury on the 27th of June last, at the distribution of prizes among the most distinguished students of the East India College, in the presence of a deputation from the East India Company, and a large assemblage of visitors and friends of the youths who were coming out to govern India. Mr. Shepherd, the Chairman of the Company, and unquestionably its ablest representative, presided over the assembly, and with his usual ability. On this special occasion, his task was easy and beyond all precedent. According to

port of the Principal, the College has never presented so gratifying an appearance. Never has it comprised within its circle, a more splendid body of statesmen. Of 81 students attached to it, 79 have exhibited the proficiency required by the statutes for keeping the terms. There were only three dummies, and even they lost their terms by illness, withdrawal, or some other cause. The "other cause," must of course refer to inveterate idleness and incapacity; if, therefore, we allow one of the three to have lost his footing by illness, the other by withdrawal, we shall have only one actually disqualified for the service. Who after this will venture to say that the Court of Directors are not the most fortunate body in England, as regards the selection of their servants? Again, of these 79, no fewer than 55 have taken honours, and those Haylebury Honours. But the most delightful and animating announcement in this Report, is, that of the Twenty young Civilians who had then passed the ordeal of the College, and are now on their way out to India, no fewer than 15 were "highly distinguished." We desire to offer our most cordial congratulations to the Native community of India, on the halcyon days which are now beginning to dawn upon them, and the galaxy of talent which is about to adorn the public administration.

On these occasions the Chairman is expected to deliver himself of a certain number of prescriptive admonitions and fallacies, the object of which no one mistakes but the Editors of the London Press. Every one knows that his address is intended, not so much for the edification of the young gentlemen, as for the leading journals in England. It is the same duty from year to year, and the students can guess beforehand very nearly what they are to hear. They are exhorted not to get drunk, or to gamble, lest they should become an object of contempt and an "intolerable nuisance." They are exhorted to become thoroughly masters of all the duties they are expected to perform, which duties they are enjoined to perform with correctness and punctuality. Above all things, they are to avoid prostration and debt; they are to be courteous and kind in their demeanour; most careful to avoid giving offence to the religious feelings of the natives—of which the Court has set a notable example by withholding the allowance to Juggannath.—They are to be very thrifty in their expenditure, economical without being mean; no waste; no want; and they are to be very punctual in paying the Costiallaw tradesmen;—and then the practice of all these virtues, will make them "shine in the hall of Haylebury as living proofs of the excellency of its education and training, and thus uphold to the latest posterity the honour and reputation of the Civil Service of India." (Loud Cheers.)

We now come to the fallacies in the address, but these fallacies are not to be considered as in the smallest degree reflecting discredit on Mr. Shepherd individually; they arise simply from the discrepancy between the theory and the practice of the Indian administration. The theory is annually embodied in the Chairman's speech, the practice is visible around us; and it may possibly not be uninteresting to the Court of Directors, to see how wide a contrast they present. Mr. Shepherd considers, as he was officially bound to do, that the institution at Haylebury is a most invaluable one, and that the student sows the seeds of his future harvest. Now, in India, where we have an opportunity of testing the value of its training on the pure qualifications of the Civilian, we have no means to form the lowest possible estimate

of the College, and are accustomed to consider that the student sows nothing there but the seeds of future regret. The Chairman says, "There is no evading the obvious and just inference, that the student's career at that College may be considered the index to his future reputation and usefulness in the service." We believe, there cannot be a greater mistake. As the period passed at Haylebury is generally considered so much lost time, no account whatever, as far as our experience goes, is ever taken out here of the standing the student may have attained in that Institution. It certainly does not in the smallest degree affect his reputation, or his prospects in the service. We question, whether the roll of that College is ever referred to in the distribution of Indian office. Again, Mr. Shepherd stated, that the students having completed their term of study at Haylebury, would proceed to India, and "perfect themselves in the vernacular languages, and thus qualify themselves for the public service." Such is the Leadenhall Street theory; the Indian practice is for young men to be declared qualified for the public service, before they are able to address one intelligible sentence to the suitors or officers of the Court they are sent to preside in, or to comprehend a single sentence that is spoken around them. Their vernacular education begins *after* they have left College, and entered upon actual service. The Chairman also stated that "those who were first prepared in Fort William College, would be first provided for." This requires a little explanation. The Government of Bengal has arranged that eleven of the Joint Magistrates, who are on 500 Rs. a month, shall receive 700 Rs. before they become Magistrates on 900 Rs., and this increase comes to them, in turn, according to the date of their leaving the Calcutta College. After they have obtained a Magistracy, and onwards, through all the superior grades of the service, the position they held in the College in Calcutta has no influence whatsoever on their promotion. Again, the theory at the India House is that "the Government of India should not permit important offices to be held by inefficient men," but the effect of this assertion is at once blunted by the declaration, which immediately followed, that "there are few or no appointments held by Civilians that do not come under that denomination." If so, how does the Government contrive to dispose of the drones? But what is the real practice? The only offices in Bengal, which the Government invariably consider of such importance, that they should be held only by efficient men, are those of the five Sudder Judges, of the three Members of the Revenue Board, and the three Secretaries, that is, the eleven 3,350 Rs. a month offices. There may possibly be five or six others of inferior value which it is deemed desirable to fill up on the principle of selection. But all others, from the Revenue Commissioner to the Joint Magistrate, are given as strictly on the principle of seniority, as in the Military service. The Government has latterly endeavored to break through the fetters of this system in the appointment of Revenue Commissioners, but it has had to fight every inch of its way against the general feelings of the service. The fact is undeniable, that in nine cases, out of ten, the appointments are regulated, not by any of the imaginary honours of Haylebury, or by the certificates of Fort William College, or even on the principle of natural fitness or merit, but by the gradation list of the Civil Service. Every man therefore knows when his turn will come. The Bengal Directory is the Book. Lastly, Mr. Shep-

herd has added the bold assertion, that "debt would be as complete a bar to the employment of the Civilians in responsible duties as incapacity." In one sense this is true, for incapacity is no obstacle to the employment of Civilians in situations of responsibility,—always supposing the offices of Judge, Collector and Magistrate to come within this category.—Every man in India feels that debt is no bar to the higher, or the highest appointments in the Service, and although the Chairman may publish this statement to the world in England, we question, whether he will venture to embody it in a despatch to the Bengal Government, and order promotion to be refused to every man who is in debt to the extent of more than three months' salary.

**MATTERS ECCLESIASTICAL.**—In accordance with our promise to keep our readers acquainted with the progress of religious events in England, particularly such as bear upon the political condition of the Established Church, we have collected some of the most important facts announced by the last mail. First, as in duty bound, we give the denouement of the first act of the Wiseman drama. The Cardinal has found that the decrees from the Flaminian Gate are for *cave* powerless, and he has fled. A Committee of the House of Commons had been appointed to enquire into the operation of the Law of Mortmain, and as it was supposed that Cardinal Wiseman could throw much light upon the subject, he was summoned before the Committee. The Cardinal, however, did not approve of being subjected to all kinds of impertinent interrogations, and accordingly sent his solicitor, who exerted all his ingenuity to fence off the questions addressed to him. The Committee were not to be baffled, and the attorney refused, on the ground of breach of confidence, to give them any information as to the actual amount of the trusts in the Cardinal's hands, they resolved to summon him in person. Some of the Members of the Committee objected to this proceeding, on the allegation, that the Cardinal was beyond their power, but the majority decided that the Red Hat did not alter Dr. Wiseman's legal status, which was precisely the same, for all purposes, as that of an ordinary dissenting Minister. He was accordingly ordered to attend, but he evaded the enquiry, and, as it is said, left the country, to avoid the Sergeant at Arms. It is reported, that he has in his hands honorary trusts to the extent of £200,000, and as his conduct in the case of *Melmoth v. Wiseman*, has not increased his reputation, his flight will give rise to all kinds of absurd and exaggerated rumours. His departure is peculiarly awkward at the very moment when the Pope has published a new rescript, in which he styles him Archbishop of Westminster, and *Ordinary* of London. In the same document his Holiness promises an indulgence of one hundred days to all the faithful who will contribute towards the erection of a great Roman Catholic Cathedral in London, a measure which does not appear to be quite so effective in these days, as when it was employed for the erection of St. Peter's. The rescript also alludes to *Gravazzi*, the great Italian orator, as having been purchased by English gold, and speaks of the crowds of the faithful who have been driven from Italy to England by political troubles, as requiring a Cathedral, though, as has been lately remarked, the latter are far more likely to listen to *Gravazzi* than to the Pope. Meanwhile, as we pointed out last week, the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill has been converted into a substantive measure, and as there is not the smallest



likelihood of its stringency being diminished in the House of Lords, Cardinal Wiseman will be obliged to own himself defeated, by styling himself Archbishop of the Church in Westminster, or pay fines at the rate of about £100 per day.

The Church of England, meanwhile, does not appear to have gained that strength and unity from its contests with the Romanists, which might have been expected. The Bishop of Exeter has held his Synod, which was attended by Seventeen Dignitaries, Five Bishops' Chaplains, Twenty-nine rural Deans, Two Officials of the Archdeacons, and Fifty-eight representative Clergy, in all one hundred and eleven. Some communications received from Government appear, however, to have checked the Bishop's ardour, and the meeting was carefully divested of even the semblance of Synodical action. The assembled Clergy, in fact, did nothing beyond expressing their entire adherence to the doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration in its most unqualified form. The following sentence, extracted from the Declaration, is a clear, and definite enunciation of the doctrine:—"Acknowledging 'one baptism for the remission of sins,' we hold as of faith that all persons, duly baptized (and being adults, with its qualifications), are not only baptized once for all, but also are baptized with the one true baptism of Him, 'who baptizeth with the Holy Ghost,' and who, thus making us to 'be born again of water and of the Spirit,' delivers us thereby from the guilt and bondage of all our sins, of original and past sin absolutely and at once, of sins committed after baptism conditionally, when with hearty repentance and true faith we turn unto God." This of course implies, that if a man postpones his baptism to the hour of his death, he becomes absolutely cleansed from all sin, a doctrine which goes far beyond the Romish practice of absolution. Mr. M'Neile has addressed a letter to the Bishop upon this declaration, in which he declares, that the "agitation must go on until some revision of our book of Common Prayer shall be forced on the Church, and one or other of the contending parties be driven from her pale." To this, however, the Low Church organ, the *Record* objects, and we think with reason, first, because both parties will never consent to a revision of the Prayer book, and secondly, because the people of England, will never leave £5,000,000 a year in the hands of the remaining section of a disrupted Church.

On the other hand, the Evangelical party are becoming clamorous for Church Reform, and they are evidently the strongest body in the Lower House. Last week we noticed the motion of the Marquis of Blandford for an address to the Queen, on the spiritual destitution of great portions of England, but the speeches made on that occasion, deserve a more extended analysis. The speech of the Marquis of Blandford was filled with statistical details, some of which seem to be based upon misconception of the truth. He said, that he had selected 181 parishes in England and Wales, containing a population of 9,972,360 persons, with only 648 Churches, which would contain perhaps 1,620,000 people, but, after deducting 450,000 as the number of dissenters, there were still 1,888,860 persons unprovided for. Now, not to mention that the proportion of dissenters, particularly in Wales, appears to be forced upon too low an estimate, and that no mention is made of the thousands, who though not dissenters, frequent dissenting places of worship, there is no proof that the Churches which do exist are half filled. We are acquainted with a parish in England,

which, with a population of 8000 has only accommodation for 1500, while the congregation never reaches 500. According to the Marquis of Blandford, this parish would be in immediate need of new Churches. He continued to urge an increase in the episcopate, and made the remarkable statement, that the influence of the Church in the Colonies had been immensely increased by the appointment of Colonial Bishops. The facts of the case do not exactly warrant this conclusion, inasmuch as Canada is about to deprive, or has actually deprived the Church of all State provision, and is determined to follow the example of the United States, and the first Act of the Australasian Legislature will in all probability be of the same tendency. In fact, all the young Saxon empires, as soon as they obtain the right of legislating for themselves, appear to be determined to repudiate the idea of an Establishment, and to place all denominations upon an equality. Mr. Hume, who rose after the Marquis, moved for a return of the property of the Church of England, and corrected some of the statistics of the Mover, particularly with regard to Dissenters, and was followed by Sir B. Hall, who made some severe exposures of the mode in which Episcopal revenues were mismanaged. He attacked particularly the system of taking fines upon the property of the Church, which not only led to extraordinary abuses, but also deprived the House of the power of ascertaining the real revenue of any prelate. Even, however, without those fines, the see of Canterbury had received in seven years £210,184, of York £100,488, of London £123,985, of Durham £207,662, and of Winchester £101,130, in all £813,279, for five sees in seven years. The Bishop of Winchester alone received £20,000 in 1850, for fines upon leases. All these Bishops had therefore received sums very much in excess of those allowed them by Parliament. He then entered into some details of the extraordinary inequalities in the valuable of livings, and of the abuses which had crept into the management of prebends, and other ecclesiastical endowments, but was induced to withdraw his motion. Mr. Sydney Herbert assented to the address, and observed that he did not at all undervalue "the zeal of those Dissenting ministers which the noble member (Mr. Hume) said the noble lord had altogether omitted to consider. He held politically that all nonconformity claimed not only toleration but uninterrupted religious liberty, and he rejoiced to see the various denominations pressing forward to spread the light of the Gospel through parts of the country which it had not yet reached. What the noble lord said was, "We are one profession out of many;" he did not say, "We are the Church and you are not the church"; but all he asked was to let those whose cause he advocated develop their own resources to the utmost. If they made proselytes from heathenism so much the better—if from Dissenters it was their right—but all they sought was a clear stage and no favour, and the right to extend their influence as far as it would go." This sentiment appears to have been almost universal throughout the debate, and indicates, we think, a singular change in the opinions even of the High Church party, to which Mr. Sydney Herbert avowedly belongs.

The most remarkable speech of the evening, however, whether we regard the statements put forward, or the temper in which they were received, was that of Mr. Horsman. After giving a narrative of certain pecuniary transactions of the Bishop of Gloucester, which reflect

no lustre on that Prelate, and the accuracy of which was subsequently acknowledged by the Premier, he concluded by saying:—"These questions demanded and would obtain serious consideration. Public opinion out of doors would soon override all Parliamentary majorities or Ministerial amendments. A feeling was spreading that we must reform our episcopate, or have no episcopate at all—that we must reform our church establishment or have no church establishment at all. There were many men in that House who, before a few short years elapsed, would make up their minds that it was better to have religion independent of an establishment, than to have an establishment administered in such a manner as to make it independent of religion," and the sentiment was received with cheers from all sides of the House!

THE BOMBAY BISHOPRIC.—The *Bombay Guardian* informs us, apparently on good authority, that the Bishopric of Bombay has been offered to the Venerable J. H. Pratt, Archdeacon of Calcutta, and adds "of his acceptance little doubt can be entertained." We imagine, this offer will be viewed with something approaching to regret by the Bishop of Calcutta, as we believe, he had hoped to see his Archdeacon inducted to a newly created Bishopric of Agra. We shall be sorry and yet happy to hear, that Mr. Pratt has accepted the offer, sorry because Calcutta will lose a good Archdeacon and a pious Minister, and glad because Bombay will gain a Bishop equal in Evangelical character to the one she has lost.

THE FULCRUM RULE.—The *Optimist* of the 16th instant, has fallen into a grave error, in asserting that Mr. Torrens, the Governor General's Agent at Moorsheadabad, has gone to England without giving up his appointment. Nothing of the kind. The wisdom of the Court of Directors has amply provided against any thing so heinous, or so rational. They have determined that no man who wishes to retain his appointment shall pass beyond the 30th or 180th degree of longitude East of Greenwich, and the 30th degree of North and 60th degree of South latitude. An officer may now go to Egypt, he may speculate on the Pyramids, or write his name on the forehead of the Sphinx, but if he goes to Alexandria, he loses his appointment. He may, it is true, go to Jerusalem, and luxuriate in the most magnificent of climates amidst scenes of unparalleled interest, but woe to him if he rides fifty miles to the West of the Holy City. On the opposite side, he may visit the Antipodes and gaze his fill on the burning lake of Hawaii, but he may not improve his experience by a glance at Terra del Fuego, or his constitution by a ramble in South America. The officer on leave is, in fact, for the first time taught the necessity of studying the "Use of the Globes."

THE PACHA AND THE ERIN.—A discussion has, we observe, been commenced by the *Calcutta Journals*, upon the real cause of the loss of the *Pacha*, but we think, there is scarcely information enough before the public to enable them to decide upon the party most deserving of blame. There is in the Steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company is the same with that in force in the Admiralty in regard to Steamers, viz. that there should be three lights burnt at night, a red one on the port side, a green one on the larboard side and a white one on the foretop. The question therefore of the comparative culpability or blamelessness of the officers of the two vessels













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pleable to the rate of mortality among the members of the Civil Service, which has been investigated with the same care and deliberation, and the mortality of both classes may therefore now be considered to be better defined than that of the first survey, entered by the Life Offices in England.

Every presentation having been then taken to determine accurately the risks to which any Life Assurance entered in India would be subject, the Directors of the Medical, Invalid, and General Life Assurance Society believe, to at from the confidence which is thereby inspired by full, complete, and exact information, they are enabled to extend advantages to Assureds greater than any company would have been hitherto justified in offering, and they therefore submit the present statement in explanation of their views, and in support of the grounds on which a preference is claimed for them by the Company.

While attention is thus strongly directed to the great fact that this Society is enabled to secure lives in India on cheaper terms than others have hitherto adopted, the Directors are also anxious to let it be understood, that they have not been in India for the purpose of extending the same to the Indian population, but of securing to the British community in India, and to the European population in India, the same advantages as are secured to the British community in England, and to the European population in England.

The Directors, notwithstanding the fact that in the first survey, the mortality of the Indian population was found to be higher than that of the European population, have not been deterred from extending the same to the Indian population, but of securing to the British community in India, and to the European population in India, the same advantages as are secured to the British community in England, and to the European population in England.

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which the Board may consider equally healthy, as the present residence, but if such residence is not found to be so, the only safe reduction not to take effect until the end of the year's residence.

Civil Rates charged on the lives of Military Officers holding Civil appointments, for the term of each appointment.

11. Persons named with this Society may propose to, and reside in, any part of the world, except the Western Hemisphere, but if such residence is not found to be so, the only safe reduction not to take effect until the end of the year's residence.

ANNUAL PREMIUM to insure 10,000 Rupees on a Single Life, payable at death, whenever that may happen.

Age next Birthday.	CIVIL.		MILITARY.	
	With Particulars in Profit.	Without Particulars in Profit.	With Particulars in Profit.	Without Particulars in Profit.
20	Rs. 25	Rs. 25	Rs. 25	Rs. 25
25	33	33	33	33
30	41	41	41	41
35	48	48	48	48
40	55	55	55	55
45	62	62	62	62
50	69	69	69	69
55	76	76	76	76
60	83	83	83	83

ANNUAL PREMIUM to insure 10,000 Rupees on a Single Life, payable at death, whenever that may happen.

Age next Birthday.	CIVIL.		MILITARY.	
	If within 1 Year. 5 Years.		If within 1 Year. 5 Years.	
20	Rs. 25	Rs. 25	Rs. 25	Rs. 25
25	33	33	33	33
30	41	41	41	41
35	48	48	48	48
40	55	55	55	55
45	62	62	62	62
50	69	69	69	69
55	76	76	76	76
60	83	83	83	83

RATES FOR INTERMEDIATE AGES AND FOR INTERMEDIATE KIND OF LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS PROPORTIONALLY REDUCED.

This Company will establish Agencies in Bombay and Madras and in all parts of India, where the transaction of business will be facilitated thereby. Particulars as to Rates for Assurances, Remissions in Agents, &c. will be sent on application to the Secretary.

F. M. TAIT, Secretary.

3, Regent-st., Calcutta, 1881.

## THIRTEETH STEAMER.

The American High Speed Navigation Company in September next, will put a second Steamer on the line between Alexandria and Trieste, to leave the former place on the arrival of the Bombay Passengers, about the 22nd inst., and to arrive at the latter place on the 10th inst.

WATSON, BORDABALLA AND CO., Agents, Calcutta, 21 August, 1881.

## FOR LONDON DIRECT.

2nd of Oct. on 1st December, will put a second Steamer on the line between Alexandria and Trieste, to leave the former place on the arrival of the Bombay Passengers, about the 22nd inst., and to arrive at the latter place on the 10th inst.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "ORIENTAL," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.**  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for India, and for the Straits Settlements, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong, intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel "Oriental" will be closed at this Office, on Saturday, the 6th Proximo, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Monday, the 8th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Keadigerry, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Oriental can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

**R. B. BURLINGTON, Esq.**  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Calcutta, Genl. Post Office, the 10th August, 1851.

**H. C. STEAMER "TANZANIE."**  
NOTICE.—The Packet for Vientianam and Moum, for transmission by the H. C. Steamer "Tanzanie," will be closed at this Office on Friday next, the 28th inst.

**E. BOTTELDOORN, Esq.**  
For Deputy Post Master General.  
Genl. Post Office, the 23rd August, 1851.

**THE CASE OF COL. MACRIER *versus* MR. LANG** has terminated to the general satisfaction of the public. Col. Macriar was the member of the Military Board who deemed it necessary, that the charges which had been brought against Jotes Persaud, the great contractor, should be subjected to further investigation, although his colleagues had voted for rejecting them. The present prosecution is intimately connected with Colonel Macriar's honest and conscientious discharge of his public duty at that occasion. Some thirty years ago, a charge of cowardice had been brought against Colonel—then Lieutenant—Macriar, during our military operations in Kotah, by a discharged trooper. The charges were fully investigated by the Military Authorities at the time, and pronounced to be perfectly groundless. Since that period, Colonel Macriar has exhibited the martial virtues of the soldier, in some of our late engagements, in one of which he was severely wounded. Mr. Lang, however, thought fit to rake up the exploded calumny during the trial of Jotes Persaud at Agra; but, instead of giving it its address to the Jury, for which there might have been some extenuation in the forensic excitement of the moment, he interpolated it in the printed report of the speech which he revised, notwithstanding the remonstrance of the officiating editor of the *Agra Messenger*. This gross and perfectly unjustifiable libel, he was required by Col. Macriar's Attorneys to retract, but he refused to do so; and the Colonel, therefore, instituted a criminal prosecution against him. The case came on last week in the Supreme Court, and Mr. Lang defended his own cause, but the Jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and after an application for a new trial had been rejected by the Court, he was sentenced on Monday last, to two months' imprisonment, and a fine of 1000 Rs. It appears to be the universal opinion in society, that the sentence, when compared with the aggravated circumstances of the attack, is singularly mild. Mr. Lang, it is said, is also condemned to pay the costs of both parties; but as he has the unlimited resources of his client to fall back upon, the only portion of the sentence which can affect him, is the imprisonment, which we doubt not, he will treat with his usual jocular-ty in the next number of the *Optimist*.

**DRAFT OF AN ACT REGARDING DACOITIES AND THE VILLAGER CHOWKEDARS.**—A recent

Calcutta Gazette promulgates the draft of an Act, which yields in importance to none which the Legislative Council has prepared; during the sixteen years of its existence. It has a more extensive bearing on the welfare of the Lower provinces of this Presidency, and will exert a more decisive and beneficial influence on their interests, than one would be led to suppose from its extreme brevity. Its object is to extinguish the Dacoities which have now become so prevalent, and to prevent their recurrence by improving the condition and independence of the village Chowkedars. Owing, partly to our rules of evidence, and partly to the complication of our judicial institutions, a most extensive system of Dacoities has sprung up in the suburban districts, and has acquired such vigor and extension, as to deprive property of all security. In the extreme vicinity of our Government, the most despotic individuals, it has inflicted the severest injustice on the community at large. In its double dread lest the innocent should suffer, it has given comparative impunity to those who professionally prey on society. It has been found next to impossible to convict a dacoit, under the existing laws and constitution of the Criminal Courts. The police has become perfectly paralyzed, and there are, we believe, few Magistrates in a circle of sixty or seventy miles round Calcutta, who will not readily acknowledge that no Native with 2 or 300 Rs. in his possession, can retire to rest with the certainty that he shall not be robbed of it before the morning. Numerous gangs have been established throughout these districts, who live entirely by plunder, and whose associates are constantly employed in collecting information for the direction of their expeditions. "Things having now come to the worst," they are beginning to mend. The Draft proposes to enact, that whoever shall be proved to belong, or to have at any time belonged to, or robbed in company with, any gang of persons associated for the purpose of practising robbery or extortion, shall be deemed a Dacoit, without reference to the tribe or caste to which he belonged, and shall be punished with transportation for life, or with imprisonment for any less term with hard labour. The same stringent law is now therefore to be employed against the Dacoity associations, which has been found so successful in the case of the Thugs, and there can be little doubt that it will prove equally efficacious. It will enable the magisterial authorities, by means of approvers whose assertions are corroborated by collateral evidence, to prosecute the Sirdars to a conviction, and immediately to break up the gangs. All that the Sessions Judge will have to do, is to sift the evidence proffered of the dacoits having belonged to a gang, and having been associated in expeditions. This measure will plant mistrust in the mind of every dacoit, and destroy all confidence in his associates, against whose peaching he can never consider himself secure. It will strike at once at the root of the system which has so long destroyed the security and the happiness of the people in these districts, and give us, we trust, immediate repose.

The other measure of reform has reference to the most ancient institution in the country, the Village Police, which the British Government has most singularly neglected from the very com-

menement, and throughout the whole course, of its administration. We have 150,000 of these Police officers scattered throughout the provinces of Bengal and Behar. They are placed in the most anomalous position; no fixed rules exist regarding their appointment or their allowances. In some villages, they are nominated by the householders, in others, by the landholders, in many, by no one. Their wages are uncertain; they are generally under-paid, and always irregularly so. At present, the Magistrate is not allowed by law to interfere, either to secure their appointment, or to enforce the payment of their allowances. Thus they are connected with the regular Police establishment of the country only by the most feeble link. They are invested with great power, sufficient to defeat all the vigilance of the Magistrate, and to neutralize the exertions of his police officers, and yet they are subject to no kind of discipline or control. Not having sufficient pay for their maintenance from any legitimate source, they are left,—perhaps, constrained,—to ek out by illegitimate means, and the dacoits and thieves are always prepared to purchase their aid or connivance by sharing with them the plunder they have acquired. It has been manifest any time during this century, that unless this constabulary force could be thoroughly reorganized and brought into a state of close alliance with the established police, and secured to the interests of good government, every other reform in the Police must be altogether nugatory.

Government has at length addressed itself to the question in right earnest. The Act of which the draft has now been published, is the preliminary step in a great reform of the village Police. It makes no startling change in its organization. It introduces no innovation which could alarm the most timid. The improvement is so simple, and at the same time so obvious, that the only feeling that it possibly excites, is one of astonishment that it should have been so long delayed. The Magistrate is empowered to enforce the appointment of the chowkedar whenever, through the neglect or the cupidity of the householders or the landholders, that duty has been omitted, and he is to provide one chowkedar to fifty houses. Whenever those on whom the responsibility of filling up vacancies lies, may neglect it, the Magistrate is directed to appoint the chowkedar himself; where there is no local rule regarding the payment of his wages he is to consider the Zemindar and Talookdar liable for them, and, wherever such payment may be due and unsatisfied, he is to cause the Darogah to realize it by distraint and sale. The immediate result of this Act will be to furnish us with all the necessary details regarding the 150,000 village chowkedars, and a return of the villages throughout these provinces; of the number of houses; and of the mode in which the chowkedars are paid in every individual instance. At the same time it will immediately secure them an adequate and a punctual allowance, and bring them naturally into a state of subordination to the Magistrate through whom they obtain this blessing.

**REPORT OF THE NUDERA RIVER.**—The Second Number of the Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government has just made

its appearance. It consists of a Report on the Nudda river, and the advantages derived from the measures annually adopted for facilitating their navigation, by Major Lang, the Superintendent. Those who are unacquainted with the topography of Bengal may possibly require to be informed, that these are the rivers which connect Calcutta with the North West Provinces, that they are fully open to navigation only during four months of the year, and that during the other months, vessels of large burden are obliged to take the circuitous route of the Sunderbunds. It has been an object of solicitude to the Government and the community for thirty or forty years to improve the navigation of these rivers, and the Report now before us furnishes us with the highly important details of the efforts which have been made for this object, and the success which has attended them. The first exertion was made by Government in 1818-19, at the instance of the merchants of Calcutta, when Mr. C. K. Robinson, who had distinguished himself by his gallantry on the field of the Seataduldee, and to whom Calcutta was subsequently indebted for some of its noblest and most classical buildings—was appointed Superintendent and Collector. He was succeeded the next year by Mr. May, who continued to conduct these duties with great energy, but little success for twenty years. Major Lang gives us a history of his success and his disappointment, year by year, throughout this period, in which unfortunately the latter maintains a great preponderance. In the year 1824, a toll was established by a Regulation on these rivers, "in order to defray the annual expense which the arrangements must occasion," and it continues to be collected to this day, although the object for which it is raised has never been accomplished. In fact, we have scarcely any instance on record in the history of British India, in which such long continued and arduous efforts have resulted in so signal a failure. The Ganges appears to be perfectly unmanageable; it exhibits its annual caprice, by shifting the point of its confluence with the Bengal rivers, sometimes to the extent of eight miles in a single season. Then, again, the furious silt brought down by this large volume of water is for ever creating shoals, and blocking up the channel. No sooner is its repose disturbed in one locality than it proceeds a little distance down the stream and forms a new deposit. Bandells have been constructed with the view of narrowing and deepening the channel, and by dint of incessant care they have often succeeded in doing so, and boats of small burden have been able to reach Calcutta, but there is no certainty that they will not be exposed to some impracticable sand-bank in some part of the river, and that the owner will not be saddled with the ruinous expense of transporting his goods in small skiffs. For all the purposes of commerce, our exertions in these rivers for the last thirty years have been entirely without result. In 1781, Major Rennell stated that they were usually unnavigable throughout the dry season, and although Major Lang has succeeded in attaining a greater depth of water in some places, they are still "usually unnavigable throughout," and the produce of the North West still finds its way to Calcutta for eight months of the year, by the Sunderbunds. Major Lang has himself remarked that "these ever recurring variations in the course of the Ganges, and consequent changes in the position of the heads of the streams branching from it, being considered, the impossibility of maintaining a durable communication between the Ganges and Calcutta by one of the Nudda

river must, I think, be admitted." And again, "the enquiry into the records of proceedings on the Nudda Rivers which a call for this report has constrained me to make, has gone far to convince me that no measures however successful in securing and maintaining an ample depth of water during one year, can be effectual in preserving a channel, which shall outlast an inundation. On the contrary, it is as likely as not, that the river most open and navigable this season, may become totally impassable the next."

Such an assertion from an officer of such experience as Major Lang, made after a careful investigation of the records of his office, is of the highest importance. It settles at once and for ever the question of the possibility of rendering the rivers of Bengal navigable throughout the year for the purposes of commerce, by any contrivance which the ingenuity of man can devise. Even the Ganges itself affords no such facilities for the navigation of steamers during the greater portion of the year, as the noble Mississippi and its tributaries furnish, with an uninterrupted channel for vessels drawing eight and ten feet water, through a length of two thousand miles, at all seasons of the year. It is impossible to pursue this Report in which these facts are, for the first time, distinctly brought forward, without feeling the impression that the Gangetic valley is not like the valley of the Mississippi adapted by nature for the employment of a steam flotta. We rise from the Report with a feeling of delight that we are so shortly to exchange the constant interruptions of the river navigation, for the equally cheap, but more certain and expeditious channel of the Railway. As soon as the Rail has been established between Rajmahal and Calcutta, the line of river communication in Bengal for eight months in the year will be at once superseded, and we may leave the Ganges to find a way for its own waters to the sea, at its own sweet will, without wasting a thought on the depth of its channels.

The Report, though sufficiently particular in some respects, is still in others not a little deficient. Major Lang informs us, that the total collections during the last year, were Rupees 2,38,733, while the expenditure was only Rs. 23,492, leaving a clear surplus to Government of Rs. 1,80,250. He adds that the average annual surplus for the last eight years has been Rs. 1,65,612. But this glimpse at the past only whets our curiosity to obtain a full statement of the receipts and disbursements in reference to these tolls from the month of April 1826, when the impost was first established, for the sole purpose of defraying the expense of keeping open the navigation of these rivers. We are desirous of knowing to what extent the tolls, which have not benefited the public, have proved beneficial to the revenues of Government. The account may therefore be thus summed:

Surplus tolls from the 1st of January 1824, to the 31st of December 1839, at, say, 1,20,000 Rs. a year, .....	19,20,000
Surplus Eight years 1840 to 1847, both years inclusive, .....	13,20,000
Three years, 1848—50, ... ..	4,95,000
	<hr/> Rs. 8,735,000

That is, a sum of 87 lakhs raised for a local and specific purpose, has been consolidated with the general revenues of the Empire.

But, if we fix our attention only on the surplus income of the last ten years, we shall find it amounts to 10,50,000 Rs. In the statement

laid before the House of Commons by the Court of Directors in order to meet the charge of having neglected to appropriate an adequate portion of the imperial revenues of India to works of local improvements, it was stated, that the sum expended in Bengal in ten years on these objects, was 50 lakhs of Rupees; but the Court forgot to state that one-third of this sum was derived, not from the general revenues of the province, but from a local and distinct source of income.—Again, Major Lang states his conviction that the employment of an adequate establishment which could afford more efficient and constant supervision would be attended with great advantage, and he suggests that the establishment on the three rivers which now cost 234 Rs. a month, should be augmented to 631; that is to say, that of the surplus fund of 1,80,000, the sum of 4134 Rs., or three per cent, should be appropriated to the object for which it is raised. This appears not only reasonable, but equitable; but the General Treasury is a marvellous absorbent, more especially of miscellaneous funds. The Report is, however, deficient in not giving us the amount of annual expenditure for every year. The Major states in his 50th Para. that orders for stopping the operations of the works were issued in February 1835, but he does not inform us at what scale they were subsequently resumed. It would be interesting to be able to compare the fluctuations of success or disappointment as detailed in his report of the operations for thirty years, with the proportionate amount of annual expenditure.—Lastly, Major Lang states that the number of vessels which paid toll during the year amounted to 80,000. It is important to ascertain as nearly as possible, the tonnage of these vessels; the proportion proceeding upwards, and downwards; the number of vessels which belong to each of the twelve months; and, if possible, the nature of the produce with which they were freighted. These details would enable us to form some approximate estimate of the amount of freight on which we might calculate for the Rail, wherever it may reach Rajmahal; and we trust that a Supplementary report embodying them will shortly be laid before the public.

**THE MAGISTRATE'S PROTECTION ACT.**—Though we are not very ambitious of having the last word, yet, it may possibly be expected that we should offer some kind of rejoinder to the remarks of our contemporaries on our article last week, regarding the Chief Justice's disclaimer of all connection with the Act. The *Optimist* says, that his, that is, the *Optimist's* information has proved better than ours, that it was derived from one who had seen Sir Lawrence Peel's Minutes, and who gave him the assurance that the Chief Justice had nothing to do with the Act XVIII. of 1850, either as framer, seconder or approver. But our information was to the effect, that Sir Lawrence Peel, in his correspondence with Government relative to the Small Cause Court, had suggested the propriety of a legislative Act which should give greater protection to Magistrates, and more especially to Justices of the Peace in the discharge of their duties; and that the Act in question, was drawn up in consequence of that suggestion. This statement has now been fully corroborated by Sir Lawrence Peel in his Judgment, in which he said that it was most probable that his recommendation led to the introduction of the measure. Our assertion is, therefore, fully and triumphantly vindicated, that it was drafted upon his Lordship's suggestion. Without that sug-

gestion, it would not have been drafted at all.

The next question refers to the accordance or discrepancy between the terms of the "recommendation," and the phraseology of the Act. We know that one phrase was the subject of alteration, inasmuch as the Chief Justice has himself commented on the difference between the word "bona fide," which he appears to have used, and "in good faith," which was employed in the Act. What other differences there may have been, can be known only by comparing the Letter with the Act, and for the opportunity of doing so, we must be content to wait till Parliament shall order a publication of all the correspondence and the proceedings relative to the so-called Black Acts, which it may not be unreasonable to hope will be the case during the Charter discussions.

Lastly, the Chief Justice stated in his Judgment, that to the best of his recollection, or belief, he never saw the Act before it was in print, or had the slightest communication either with Mr. Bethune, or with any other member of the Legislative Council, or of the Indian Government, regarding it. But, after much reflection, it appears more advisable for us to lie under the imputation of "shabbiness," and " Jesuitical pride," and even of "gross and obstinate misstatement," than to be guilty of the inefficiency of questioning the accuracy of the Chief Justice's recollections. Whatever may appear enigmatical in the matter, we are quite willing to leave time to explain, and, meanwhile, we give our contemporaries full liberty to bestow on us, whatever epithets their own benevolent natures may suggest.

The *Harkara* has found out that we are not infallible. We have been repeating this truth to him for the last five years, without having been honored with his belief. He says, "we have been so generally understood to be hand and glove with the powers that be—so much in the secrets of this Secretariat Government—that many persons were inclined to believe, that we could hardly have made such strong assertions in a matter on which our friends could so soon have set us right, except on first rate authority." In future, our warmest admirers will take our most positive statements, however often and earnestly repeated, with some grains of allowance." The meaning of which can be nothing more or less than that the *Harkara* has made up his mind in future, not to consider us the official organ of Government, but to believe that we are just as liable to misinformation and mistake as any of our contemporaries. This is precisely the conclusion to which we have been endeavoring to bring our worthy contemporary for many years, and by dint of many articles, and we can scarcely therefore be supposed to regret a discussion which has so happily consummated our wishes.

THE POSTING OF EMBASSIES.—We publish a letter from "Senior," on this minor, but still not unimportant subject, and would again offer it the aid of our humble but strenuous advocacy. The incalculable injury which has been done to the young Esauquis, by congregating them, first at Barrackpore, and then at Buarca, has been so often and so forcibly described, that it must by this time have reached the Court of Directors. The remedy, moreover, is one of such easy application, it is so entirely free from the objection of interfering with the sacred rights of patronage, and it would confer such unquestionable benefit on the young soldier at the outset of his career, and at the most important period of his life, that we feel certain of its

being adopted when the Charter discussions come on, and evidence of the scenes of dissipation and ruin which the present system has enacted, is placed on Parliamentary record. The unslipping their movements to the progress of the age. When men were five or six months reaching England, the Court provided that every Civilian, and every Military officer in staff or civil employment should positively vacate his situation if he visited England, though he was at liberty to go to the Cape and remain there two years, retaining a considerable portion of his emoluments. But although we are now able to reach England from Bombay in less than a month, the same last-century rule remains unaltered, and every attempt to induce the Court to regulate their measures according to the improvements of the present age, has proved unsuccessful. Thus, again, when the correspondence to and from India occupied ten months, the young Cadet was sent out to India, and it was left to the Military authorities to teach him according to the exigency of each land, according to the last return of vacancies, and to require him to proceed at once to join his regiment, in accordance with the rule prevalent in her Majesty's service. He would thus have a definite object, and a fixed destination before him from the day of his landing, and he would not be left to hang loose on society from month to month, and lay the foundation for future disappointment and regret. It would then be within the power of a parent or guardian to select for him the corps in which he would find a relative or a friend, to whose care he might be committed, and he might even have the option of being considered a supernumerary in it, if there happened at the time to be no vacancy.

MAULMEIN AFFAIRS.—The *Maulmein Times* which reached us by the last mail, gives an account of another convict out-break attended by a fearful loss of life. On the 15th August, about a hundred convicts were employed at the Government coal-shed, loading coal for the *Tennasserim*, when Nineteen of them suddenly tossed away their baskets, leaped into the coal boat, and threw the lascars who were on board into the water. They then unfurled the sail and steered their course for the other side of the river. Mr. Edwards, the Deputy Jailor, who was on the spot, immediately sent information to certain Goungs, and meanwhile endeavored to secure a boat to follow the convicts. Finding, however, that the convicts were making their escape, and would soon be in safety, he levelled his own musket, and shot the helmsman dead, thereby checking the progress of the boat for a moment. Two boats were at length procured, and Mr. Edwards in one of them gained rapidly upon that taken by the fugitives. As soon as they came within range, the peons in Mr. Edwards' boat repeatedly fired upon the convicts, though, it is said, ordered to desist by Mr. Edwards himself. The convicts were then called upon to surrender, which they did upon promise of being treated with mercy, but they were again attacked by the Police and their Goungs. The total loss was three killed, four dangerously wounded, and seven slightly hurt. The *Chronicle* gives a much worse account of the affair, and

we are inclined to believe from our own information that the slaughter was more considerable. The affair appears to have been singularly mismanaged. Mr. Edwards ought to have been able to control both his own peons, and the Police, and armed as he was, he might surely have stopped the firing at any moment. Even the contingency of the convicts escaping does not appear to us so very dreadful, because their residence on the Martaban coast could do Maulmein exceedingly little harm.

The Martaban authorities appear to be as hostile to the British as ever, and it is said, that a warm correspondence has taken place between them and the Commissioner, on the subject of certain dacoits, whom the latter required them to give up. We have no doubt this is the origin of the reports mentioned by a Maulmein correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, who says, that Burnah Proper will soon fall into the hands of the Honourable Company, that Major McLeod is to be sent as Inspector, and that Lieutenant Colonel Bogle is to rejoin his regiment. Moreover, Lieutenant General Sir R. Armstrong, was a Colonel in the Birman war, he had just been appointed to the command of the Madras Army, and perhaps the Chairman of the Court of Directors spoke adversely when in his speech he made the following remarks: "After serving for six years in Canada, he returned home, and now we have the gallant veteran again about to proceed to the scene of some of his earlier triumphs; doubtless to gather fresh laurels!" If there be one thing more than another which the Indian Government is determined to avoid, it is a second Burmese war; and to this determination must be ascribed its indisposition to plant any British representative at Bangoon. He could not avoid differences with the Burmese authorities, and we must either submit to their dictation in insolence, or assume a hostile attitude. Unless the Burmese were as submissive as our own subsidized states, the establishment of a Consulate at Bangoon would lead to a war in less than five years.

THE DEATH OF THE DEWAN MOOLRAJ demands more than a mere passing notice. This chief,—of the pacific caste of Indian Bankers,—went into rebellion against the vast power of England in April, 1849, and although he had at the time but an inconsiderable body of troops, and a very limited supply of cannon, yet he was enabled, by dint of the most extraordinary exertions, so to improve his resources of men and artillery, as to stand one of the best contested sieges in the annals of British India. The siege of Mooltan will long continue to be remembered for the skill and perseverance of the assailants, and the chivalrous and obstinate defence of the besieged. So gallant was the bearing of the brave Moolraj in circumstances the most difficult, as well as the most foreign to his previous habits, that it naturally led many to overlook the disloyal position in which he stood, and to consider the severe penalty meted to him, when we had at length succeeded in reducing the fortress, as incompatible with the proverbial generosity of our national character; and it was therefore with no small delight, we learn that the idea of subjecting him to a punishment worse than that of death, by transporting him to the Straits, had been abandoned. We have learnt, on what appears to be good authority, that during his confinement in the Fort, he was treated with great consideration, and with every indulgence compatible with the security of his person. But the climate of Bengal, and the barracks

of Fort William were totally unaccustomed to the constitution of one born and bred in the Punjab, and his health at length suffered to such an extent as to render it necessary to remove him, as the last chance of saving his life, to Allahabad. But he was past recovery before he embarked; he died on the steamer during the voyage; and he who had so gallantly borne the terrific storm of our artillery, and refused to yield his fortress till it was crumbling around him, and his army had been reduced to the lowest ebb, died among strangers and in captivity, and his body was burnt on a sand bank in the Ganges, by a few of the faithful adherents to his fallen fortunes. Another addition to the numerous instances of the mutability of human affairs with which the history of British India is crowded.

**THE FRIEND OF INDIA'S GEOGRAPHY.**—Under this title, the *Eastern Star* of the 23d instant publishes a column and a half of gentle comment upon an article in our last issue on the Furlough Rules. He says, we are egregiously ignorant of geography, that we ought to be taught the use of the globe, that we have "wounded and gashed ourselves pitifully" with other sweet amenities. We have reprinted that portion of his article which deals in facts, and need scarcely assure our readers that, with one exception, every statement we made last week is literally correct. Had our contemporary been as well acquainted with his subject, as he is with Major's Atlas, he would have seen that the figure "30th degree north" in our last issue, was a misprint for 36th, which, as every body, except our printer and the *Eastern Star* knows, is the line fixed by the Court of Directors. The whole of our contemporary's argument therefore falls to the ground, and we repeat, "an officer may go to Egypt and speculate on the Pyramids, or write his name on an article in our last issue, but if he goes to Alexandria, he forfeits his appointment." Our remark about Jerusalem was equally correct, at least if "Hall's chart of the world on Mercator's projection" be trustworthy. We acknowledge, however, to one mistake. The burning lake, or volcano, of Hawaii, is beyond the line; this was the only statement we neglected to verify with the map, because we have in our possession a stick cut from the side of this volcano, by an officer who went thither on Sick leave. As the Court cannot now deprive him of his commission for transgressing the bounds of his tether, we may mention the name of the late Captain Lowe, of the 30th N. I. whose account of the volcano was one of the most interesting narratives we ever listened to.

Lastly, our contemporary says—"Now for the Cape of Good Hope. The Cape is in Longitude 18° 22' East, and therefore beyond our *Scamper's Friend's* boundaries, and yet the Government are so blind as to permit officers to go and reside there without depriving them of their appointments, as the *Friend of India* says they ought, or says they don't, or both." We never said one word about the Cape, but had our contemporary given even a glance to the regulation referred to, he would have seen that the Cape and St. Helena, are both specially excepted by the Court from the operation of the prohibitory rules.

**TESTIMONIAL TO FRAMJEE COWAJEE.**—We are glad to see that the residents of Bombay, European and Parsee, Musselman and Hindoo, have resolved to subscribe to a Testimonial of their esteem and admiration for the character of the late Framjee Cowajee, Esq. Testi-

monials do not always afford us any very nice test of the merit of those for whom they are designed, but Framjee Cowajee was worthy of the reverence and affection with which he was regarded by his countrymen. Though not possessed of the wealth of the Parsee knight, Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, and therefore unable to exhibit the same magnificent generosity, he was always in advance of his countrymen in the liberality of his ideas, and the energy with which he pursued any scheme of enlightened social amelioration. Though a member of the old Panchayat, once all powerful among the Parsees, and devoted to the most orthodox form of his own creed, he was the first to educate the females of his household; and at one time volunteered to perform a most important service to his own community and the Government. When the Grant Medical College was set up, its progress was checked, like that of the Medical College in Calcutta, by the reluctance of the Parsees to practise Anatomy. The practice is not, we believe, forbidden by their creed, but they entertained the same kind of objection to it which was displayed by the English mob before the passing of the Anatomy Bill, and all the students of the College left the institution in one day. Sir George Russell Clerk immediately went to Framjee Cowajee, and the old man exerted his influence among his countrymen with such effect, that the students returned, and Anatomy has been practised in the College from that day to the present with the greatest success. The subscriptions raised for this Testimonial already amount to upwards of Eight thousand Rupees, and among the names of the subscribers appear gentlemen of every nation, and class at Bombay.

In connection with this subject, we may observe, that it is not exactly to the credit of Bombay, that nothing has yet been done to manifest to Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy the estimation in which his noble generosity and enlightened character are held by all classes in the community. We are not aware that any honour of a permanent character can be bestowed upon him by the Indian Government, and to chance his knighthood into a Baronetcy might be undesirable, while property is so subdivided as it is among the Parsees. The Testimonial must therefore come from his fellow citizens, and we hope to see them yet respond to the call.

**THE STRAITS GOVERNMENT.**—The *Calcutta Gazette* has recently announced the completion of an arrangement which appears for some time to have been under consideration,—the separation of the Straits Government from that of Bengal, and its immediate subordination to the Supreme Council. This measure is likely to be equally beneficial to the interests of the Straits and of Bengal. No one can be ignorant that the labours and responsibilities of the Government of Bengal, have been gradually multiplied, without any increase of its official Staff, till it has become altogether unwieldy. We believe it is no hyperbole to say, that more business is now pressed on its attention, than was required twenty-five years ago of the whole Government of Calcutta with a Governor General and Council, and three or four Secretaries to attend to it. The mass of correspondence which the Bengal Government is expected to go through, is understood to be greater in amount than that of all the three Secretariat offices connected with the Government of India, the Home, the Foreign, and the Financial. Its attention is distracted by too extensive a range of administration. In addition to its own peculiar provinces of Bengal and Be-

har, it is saddled with the supervision of Assam, the widely scattered South East Provinces, the Tenasserim Provinces, and the Straits Settlements; and for all these multifarious duties, it has half a Governor—for half the Governor's time belongs to his office of President of the Council of India—and one Secretary and two Under Secretaries. The Government is overworked, and if ever its duties appear light, it can only be when they are confined to the mere exigencies of the moment, instead of embracing those large and general measures of improvement which, in this age of progression, no administration can neglect without sealing its own condemnation. There can be no doubt, that if the two provinces of Bengal and Behar with a population of more than thirty millions, and a revenue of Ten Millions sterling, were placed under the management of a Governor, whose attention was not distracted by extraneous interruptions, they would exhibit a very different aspect to that which they now present. There is, now, no time for progress. It is a land to mouth Government. If sufficient time for the day is the civil service may be considered its motto. From the occasional reforms which sometimes emanate from it, we may form some idea of the improvements which might be expected under happier auspices, with more time for observation, deliberation, and mature action. On the other hand, the Straits Settlements have been gradually growing in importance, and their interests have been multiplied and expanded, till it has become a matter of injustice to leave the ultimate disposal of all questions connected with them, to those who can only bestow a mere fraction of their time and attention on them. The peculiarities of their position, population, and connections, render it advisable, that the chief Authority in the Straits should be vested with larger and more independent powers, and should be placed in the same relationship to the general Government of India as the administrative Government of Bengal is. It is this measure which has now been happily consummated.

This and other changes of a similar nature which are familiar to us, have been forced into the administration of India, by the progress of circumstances. Formerly, we had only the Government of Bengal, with a general control over the two sister Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. Then, at the last Charter, it appeared necessary to make a separate provision for the government of the North West Provinces. Subsequently, the acquisition of the Punjab suggested the propriety of a fifth independent administration subordinate to the Governor General of India; and now, we have the Straits settlements, erected into a sixth Presidency. All these measures are decided improvements. The provinces thus placed under the supervision of a separate agency, subject to the supervision of the general Government of India, have a fairer chance of being well-governed, and of participating in the career of improvement, than if they had been jumbled together under one administration, which must have been inefficient in proportion to the magnitude of its responsibilities. Nor is it by any means improbable that as the system is found to work well, it may hereafter be adopted to a larger extent, and other Proconsulships of small areas created, and invested with the privilege of independent action, and bound by the bond of affiliation to the central Government of India.

**THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CIVIL COURT IN OORISSA.**—Some months ago, we had the pleasure of noticing the important addition to our law Library which had been made by Mr. Mac-



pherson, the Master in Equity in Calcutta, by his work on the Procedure of the Civil Courts of the East India Company. That treatise has afforded the most valuable assistance to the Judges who preside in the Courts, and we have now received a translation of the first nine Chapters in Oordoo by the Author, which will extend the benefit of the work to the practitioners of the Sudder Courts of Calcutta and Agra, and of all the Courts in the provinces of Behar and of the North West Provinces. Mr. Macpherson states, that other engagements will prevent his continuing the publication, but that the remainder of the work has been translated, by Mr. Fagan of the Calcutta Bar, and that the N. B. is already in the Press. We are happy to learn from the Advertisement, that the Court of Directors, and the Governments of Bengal and of the North West Provinces have given executive circulation to the English work. Indeed, in the case of so valuable a treatise, such assistance could scarcely have been withheld without a dereliction of public duty.

Just as we were going to press, we received the engraving from Mr. Grant's portrait of the Bishop of Calcutta. We shall criticize it next week.

**ORISSA AND ITS EVANGELIZATION.**—We have many apologies to offer for having so long neglected this valuable work, by the Rev. A. Sutton, the result of a quarter of a century of observation and experience, to remain so long on our table. But every week brings as many as many works as we have space to notice, and this must plead some kind of apology for our procrastination. The work is a very neatly printed duodecimo, of about four hundred pages, and comprises in a narrow compass the best account we have seen of what Orissa is, and what has been done for its evangelization. It begins with an interesting Chapter on its geography, soil, scenery, productions, climate and population. Then it gives the Gajapati, the lord of the elephant, dynasty, the kingdom stretched from Rajmundry to Trichinopoly, a length of more than the hundred miles; but the country of Orissa proper, that is, the range through which the language is spoken, is embraced within five degrees of latitude, and eight degrees of longitude, or three hundred miles along the coast, and, at its largest breadth, five hundred miles inland from the sea. The history of the country is traced from the mythical period which ended with the era of Salivan, in the 77th year of the Christian era. The reigns of six Kings are then enumerated, in the reign of one of whom, about the middle of the third century, there was an invasion of the Varman, a term applied both to Greeks and Mahomedans—and the image of Jagannath was carried off to Sonopore and buried. Mr. Sutton seems to think it probable, that this is pure fiction, but we are rather inclined to confide in its truth, and to regard it as evidence of the great antiquity of the shrine. Jagannath is evidently a Buddhist shrine, and was held in renown long before Hindooism became lord of the ascendant, after which every shrine of celebrity was annexed to the new creed, and endowed with a superstitious legend. Then began the Ksatri dynasty, under Jajati A. D. 878. The most important event of his reign was the recovery of the lost image of Jagannath, and the restoration of its worship. His son, Lalata Indra, is said to have built the great temple of Bhobaneswar, and thus to have begun, or enlarged, that magnificent collection of temples, which is altogether without a superior or rival in India. After the traveller has seen every thing in India, still he has not seen Bhobaneswar, which has a grandeur and interest all its own. This dynasty lasted till A. D. 1181, when the Gunga dynasty commenced, and ruled for 400 years. The most illustrious prince of this line was Anang Bhooma Deva, after having carried the kingdom to the highest pitch of glory, built the great temple of Jagannath in 1196, and established its worship with great splendour. He gave the impress

of his own character to the people and the country. This dynasty was the most splendid in the annals of Orissa, and supplied abundant food for legendary tales. The last independent sovereign of the country was the Raja Mukund Deb, famed for his courage and ability. To him, Tribune on the Hooghly is indebted for its rescue, and to this place of pilgrimage large bodies of Oorissas have from that time been accustomed to resort. The kingdom of Orissa was now invaded by the Mahomedans of Bengal, which Chikhar's Generals had just conquered, and the terrible Kalaspalar overran the country in the year 1508. He had appointed a governor of the creed he had left. A Mary Shree-tee-pra-vidi sent a message of invitation; when he entered the sacred precincts of Jagannath, a general darkness enveloped the four corners of the land. At the sound of his wondrous working kettledrum, the ears and the feet of the Hindu dropped off for many miles round. He carried off the image of Jagannath to the banks of the Hooghly, and threw it into a large ditch, he killed it; but immediately on his own death, ere he could be buried, he died. This tale was, of course, first crested up among the devotees of Jagannath. The province was now annexed for the first time to the Mogul empire, in which it was finally absorbed. Turali Mull, the great financier of Chikhar's, made a "settlement" of the country in 1592. The eldest son of Mukund Deb, the last independent sovereign, was invested with the title of Maharaja, and made a Moonshidar of the Mogul empire, and a large portion of territory was assigned him, on hereditary tenure. This title is still borne by the Raja of Kisor, and is all that is left of the old government of the Raja. Under the administration of Turali Khan most of the country north of the Soane river was annexed to Bengal, but in 1743, the Burar Maharattas burst on Orissa, and were away its wealth and population, carrying their ravages as far as the district of Beerbhoom in Bengal. After a long struggle of nearly twenty years, the old Naloh of Moorshedabad, Ali Yerdy Khan, was obliged to cede to them the whole of the province of Cuttack and of the country south of the Mahomedan two centuries before, nothing was left of that strip of land in the north, which was still identified with the name of the Soane of Orissa. In 1803, the country was conquered by the British arms, and annexed to our growing empire. The Chapter on the social and moral condition of Orissa is exceedingly interesting, more especially to the residents in Bengal, by enabling them to compare the peculiar characteristics of the inhabitants of the two provinces. Orissa is described by Lieut. Lawrie, as the "garden of superstition and idolatry." This is but a repetition of the remark made by the great Rajpoot General of Allah, Raja Man Singh. "He was struck with amazement at the sight of a sacred river, the Muhammad, its vast crowds of brahmins, its lofty temples of stone, and all the wonders of the ancient capital of Bhobaneswar, and exclaimed, 'This country is not a fit subject for conquest and subjugation of human civilization. It belongs wholly to the gods, and is one entire shrine, or place of pilgrimage.'" Even the entrance to the country from the north, where the pilgrim has to cross the classic Soane river, and the mythical Niyas—the Bytanas, connects it with the earliest period of Hindu mythology. The Author has devoted a whole Chapter to Hindooism as seen in Orissa, which he describes as the idol most popular in Orissa, at the head of which stands the great Jagannath, worshipped with equal ardor and confidence by the pilgrim from Cape Comorin, and from the Himalayas. In reference to the population, Mr. Sutton states that by far the largest portion consists of Hindoos, who are of a very strict order; besides them, there are the aborigines, who are all considered Chandalis, or out-casts, "cut off from all intercourse with the regular Hindoo castes, deemed of all things most impure, and doomed to the most servile and degraded of employments." The haunter of the brahmin is therefore compound of the arrogance of the priesthood, and the insolence of the conqueror. Yet these Chandalis call themselves Hindoos, though Hindooism acknow-

ledges them not. "These poor degraded creatures have been benefited considerably by the British rule in India; they enjoy a freedom from oppression, a liberty of action, and an undisturbed possession of property such as their ancestors never knew, and are in consequence fast rising in the social scale." Other tribes of the great family of aborigines, the Gotes, Khonds, Santals, and others, first, in many different sections of the race which originally peopled India, and who were driven by the Hindoo conquerors from the plains, and took refuge in the fastnesses of the hills, where from age to age they have maintained a rude independence. The third class are the Mahomedans, the descendants of the Patans who held sovereignty for so many years in Orissa, and they are supposed to constitute one-seventh of the population.

We have so far exceeded our limits in this notice of a most interesting work that we are constrained to postpone our concluding remarks to the next number.

**THE BYRANE MAGAZINE.**—The number of this periodical for August fully sustains the high character it has already attained. The first article on *Fenela Infantele in the Dooch*, is an admirably written sketch of what has already been done in that territory to suppress this fearful crime, so prevalent among the higher Rajpoot clans, and of what still remains to be achieved. The writer traces the origin of the practice to two causes, first, the oriental discipline in the purity of the sex, and secondly, the inauspicious which compels a Rajpoot chieftain to exhaust his fortune in his daughter's dowry. The first cause operates so strongly against the higher Rajpoot races as to make force itself, according to their own laws, a matter of necessity. The second cause must be married, the *unat* also be married in her own estate, and lastly, she must be married in a subdivision of that caste, distinct from and higher than her own. Of course, among the higher divisions these three requisites cannot be found, and the child therefore disappears. The same causes would operate throughout the vast system of Indian castes, but that among all other classes, the girl can marry in her own subdivision, an alliance which is forbidden by the feeling of chivalry in the higher divisions. In 1842, Mr. Town, the Collector of Mysore, in a report on the assessment consequent on the famine of 1838, he found that in the whole clan of Chohan Rajpoots, the highest of the warrior castes, there was not one single female. He immediately adopted the most stringent measures to suppress the crime, which was evidently habitual, and as the birth of a female was acknowledged by a Rajah of Mysore, the crime de la crime of Rajpoot aristocracy. Government immediately sent the chieftain a dress of honour, and next year the number of female births in the tribe was trebled. The writer, however, considers that *fully per cent. of the female children still disappear*, owing to the enormous expenses of their marriage, and he calls upon Government to enact a summary law, inflicting a severe penalty whenever a dowry of above a certain amount is bestowed upon a daughter. A provision for such a law may be found in the attempt made by Jee Singh, the great Rajpoot chief of Jeppore, to establish a similar system, which failed only through the vanity of one chief.

The next article, "the Abbey of St. Andrew Le Bures," is an amusing episode in monastic legend, but is not within our province, any more than "Coleridge on the Scriptures," or "Newman's discourses to the young," which we have already seen in the "Rev. Professor Street," has quite enough of the old-time theologism about it, to make all quickly disposed individuals pass it over without further comment than a wish that the subject should be allowed to drop. The article on "Southey as an Orientalist and Father Beechi" has very little to do with Southey, as it consists chiefly of a story translated from the Tamil, and demonstrated "George Noodle." The tale is remarkable for the story it gives us of a man sitting on the branch of a tree, and easily swayed by off near the trunk, a story repeated, unconsciously of course, by Hogarth in his engraving of an election. The following narrative of Kalkias is both amusing and

characteristic. It is not however quite so unknown as the writer supposes, as it is detailed in the *Prothuber Chundrik*—

—King Vikramaditya had a daughter who was not only learned but, as learned ladies are rather apt to be, somewhat conceited on the subject of her learning. One day the king was so notified at her assurance, that he gave orders to go to the greatest scholar in his dominions, to whom the princess should be married forthwith. The messengers charged with this investigation went out, somewhat perplexed; but their perplexity was speedily removed by their meeting with a rustic perched upon a lofty branch which he was cutting through like Simplician and the electrician. They waited till man and branch came down together; and then, still believing that the scholar of his skill had saved it to the fall, they hurried him in triumph to the king, who applauded their choice and gave orders for the nuptials. The bridegroom was Kaddam, the future Bishop of India. He was not such an ass but that he could admire the lady, whose name was Vidyalahar, i. e. "Learning's Possessor." He expressed his admiration in his own uncouth way, and the indignant blue-stocking gave him a box on the ear which tumbled him over the balcony where the tete a tete (or piling a tete) had taken place. Beneath the balcony there was an image of the sanguinary demon Durga. Kaddam, under the name upon the stone, and the greater weight of blood the goddess desired him to ask a boon. In spite of his suffering, both in nose and ear, the unmerciful demon refused to enter the name of the girl who had killed him in the middle of the forehead. He was, however, successful in procuring for the first two days of his nuptial—*rapid—fading*. Learning's death was his, as his beautiful poems to the day.

The *Pulpit and the Power*, is an ably written sketch of the difficulties which beset the Minister in India, one-half of whose congregation are men of cultivated minds superior to the ordinary congregations of England, while the other half, though not illiterate, are scarcely able to comprehend any but the simplest language. The "Worshipers in Western India" is very decidedly dry reading.

Among the extracts and intelligence, the conductors of the Magazine have placed the "Declaration of the Australasian Bishops on the doctrine and discipline of the Church." This document is signed by the Bishops of Sydney, New Zealand, Tasmania, Adelaide, Melbourne, and New South Wales, and is a very remarkable production. It is calculated in no ordinary degree to increase that repugnance to a religious Establishment so apparent in all the Sixteen Colonies of Great Britain. It is not too much to say that were the principles of this declaration fully carried out, submission to such an insufferable tyranny would be impossible. The Bishops not only assert their full belief and confidence in the doctrine generally called Tractarian, which of course they have a right to do; but they proceed to carry out these doctrines into all the social relations of life. Not only do they demand the power of excommunication, a power always liable to abuse, but they declare that "Ministers of the Church of England ought not to solemnize marriages between persons neither of whom is of that communion, except in cases where the marriage cannot without extreme difficulty be solemnized in any other way." With the exception of the Bishop of Melbourne, they assert Baptismal regeneration in its most unqualified form, but the latter preparation modifies his tone with respect to the actual regeneration either of infants or adults. He even goes so far as to say—

"The Church, in her office for the baptism of infants, and in that for the baptism of adults, uses the language of faith and hope, and it is not to be understood as declaring positively a fact which is cannot certainly know—i. e., that every baptized infant, or every baptized adult, is regenerate."

Lastly they declare that they will not countenance any system of "erroneous doctrine or indefinite religious instruction." In other words, they will have nothing to do with any schools, not distinctly subject to the Church of England. And all this they gravely announced, although there is the highest probability that the Australasian Legislature will, in its first session, sweep away their exclusive privileges, leaving the leading of the United States, and placing all seats upon a footing of perfect equality, and leaving them to the support of their respective flocks.

**A VOYAGE TO ENGLAND AND AMERICA.** BY JAMES DARR, OF YOUNGHOUGH.—The author of this little work is a pious native Christian, who accompanied the Rev. H. B. Wilson on a visit to Eng-

land and America. The account of his visit to those countries, if written with the freshness and naivete of an oriental in the midst of new and exciting scenes, would be in the highest degree interesting. Unfortunately, the writer appears to be fettered by the foreign tongue in which he writes, and his ideas have not only no originality, but no interest. He has kept his book free from glaring blunders, but he has also denuded it of thoughts, and the vivid style in which the oddities of English life have been seen upon by some foreigners is wanting. We wish Mr. Darr would give us an account of his travels in his own language, and with the easy ease and spirit which mark the genuine Asiatic when recounting his adventures. Such a work, enriched by a few statistical details, would be of great service to his countrymen, and when translated would be readily European with the keen relish with which Americans read abuse of themselves. The following extract about an election in America, is a good specimen both of the author's habits of observation, and of the extreme meagreness of his book:—

"The form of government in vogue in America is well known to every reader. A few days after my landing in America, I had opportunity to witness one of the elections, which were likely to be of the President. There were a great many of the country people assembled in the hall of the city, where the election was to take place. The candidates were Mr. Fremont, in favor of the abolition for the present term, and Mr. Fremont, in favor of the Union. The election was a great success for all sorts of people, especially the vulgar, and I am given to understand that outbreaks at times occur in these mobs on account of their difference of opinion, and they prefer at these times their generally a great contempt of all sorts of people, especially the vulgar, and I am given to understand that outbreaks at times occur in these mobs on account of their difference of opinion, and the election is made by ballot. Sometimes there may be at first more candidates for the office than one, but by degrees they are brought down to two, and the contest between the election of these two is generally sharp. Here the party spirit rages to a great height and people are always fighting and writing against each other, inasmuch that those who are engaged in the contest are incapable of enjoying any peace of mind."

**SEVENTEETH'S REPORTS.**—We have been favoured with a copy of the 1st Part of the 3d Volume of Reports Cases determined by the Supreme Court of Calcutta, by Mr. A. A. Sevestre, a pleader of the Court. The brochure contains thirty-six such reports on points of Law and Practice, which appear to have been reported with much care, and diligence, and as precedents will be found very useful to the practitioners in this Court, as well as to those subordinate to it. Some of the cases appear to be of unusual importance and extensive application. We may as well be more particularly to one in which it was ruled, that in a claim for the amount of a legacy under a will, it was discovered that the property was in the custody of the Supreme Court, and the Court therefore stated its inability to interfere with it, although the decree-holder was at liberty to attach any property of the judgment debtors which was not in the hands of the Receiver of that Court.

#### WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21.

—The Bombay Journals state, that the shipment of a compound of rosin and other inflammable substances instead of gun, which we mentioned last week, and which we believed was intended to set fire to the ship, was in reality only an ordinary fraud. The shipper, a native, is supposed to have hoisted the gun to parties in Europe, and derived this compound, which bore a remarkable resemblance to the real gun, in order to deceive them. He had, however, inured the people, and he may also have hoped that some accident would set fire to his combustibles, and thus ensure him to reap a double profit.

—We regret to notice the death of the Rev. J. McCallister, of the Madras Establishment, and one of the oldest Clergymen in India, having arrived in this country Thirty-eight years ago.

—We observe that the line of steamers between Bombay and Ceylon, which has been for a time suspended, has been resumed by the Bombay Steam Navigation Company.

—A General correspondent of the *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* states, that in the British Possessions, the most productive district in India with respect to cotton, and consequently one of the most fertile of territories, is not one solitary inch of made road, not one ditch, or one bridge. So much for the description of the admirable roads of Western India, volunteered by the Chairman of the Court of Directors. Speaking of Guzerat, we are reminded to ask what has become of Mr. Mackay, the Cotton Commissioner?

—The *Agre Magazine* informs us that the Delhi Bank has declared its dividend on the operations of the year half year at the rate of Eight per cent. on the capital.

—There has been another "affair" at Bangalore. Major General Atkinson gave an order to a Captain, on the parade ground, which he did not appear to understand, and he accordingly repeated it to a Lieutenant. General Atkinson thereupon ordered him to go to his Company with an epithet, which shows the lamentable extent to which that officer has descended in his intemper and tongue to destroy the respect due both to himself and his subordinate. The Captain immediately drew up the ground, and was placed in arrest by the Major General. Surely it is time for these frosts of power to cease.

—The *Lahore Chronicle* notices, that the Mail of the 6th of July reached Lahore in thirty-five days and a half. The residents of that capital, therefore, receive their letters from London within twenty-four of the time in which they reach Calcutta.

The same journal publishes a letter from a correspondent, with an account of the injury caused by the inundation at Lash on the banks of the Indus. Whole villages were swept away, and the people only escaped by taking refuge in the tops of trees. The new wall has been completely destroyed, and several private houses have been injured in a greater or less degree.

We perceive from the *Delhi Gazette*, that the Maharajah of Gwalior has been ordered to send a detachment of his army into his territories. He was notified of this order by the British authorities at Lahore, who, it is reported, had him in custody.

The report of the death of Mohan is confirmed. It was at Pabna near Benares, and his remains were burnt on shore.

The *Examiner* notices a report, that Mr. George Thompson, is about to resign his seat in Parliament, and to settle permanently in America. How signally has he disappointed the great expectations which were formed of him in Parliament.

—A General Order of the 2nd instant announces, that ten officers have passed the Interpreter's examination, seventy-nine in Hindustani, and fifteen in the colloquial.

LATHMAY, AUGUST 22.

—The case of *Lathmay*, August 22, so frequently alluded to in the *Madras Register*, and in our own columns, appears at length to have been decided. The relative applied to the Supreme Court a writ of Habeas Corpus, which was taken out, and a return made on oath by Lathmay himself. He refused to be sworn on any thing but the Bible. The Court, however, ordered that she was living with her husband of her own free will, that she had knowingly and willingly partaken of food prepared by pariahs, and that she did not wish to come before the Court, or to be a witness in the *Lathmay* case. The case was, therefore, discharged.

—A native paper speaks of a terrible epidemic, which is said to be raging at Chhapra, and diffuses in every respect from Chhapra to the station of Benares. A native, rapidly followed by a Government Agent, and a Minister of the Government. They all died within a few days.

—A correspondent of the *Englishman* mentions, that it is in contemplation to establish an "ice magazine" at Patna, the place to be brought from Calcutta in a steamer. This mode of sending ice to the stations on the river is becoming popular, and if carried to any extent, may raise the price in the Calcutta market. We hope it will induce competition.

—A General Order by the Governor General, places the whole of the Grand Trunk Road up to Ferozepore, under the care of the North West Circle of Superintendence.

—The Monthly Meeting of the Agricultural Society of India, was held on the 8th August, at the Society's House. Twelve new members were elected, and eleven more proposed, but the meeting was adjourned till the 15th. It was announced, that Rs. 1,601 had been subscribed towards the Testimonial to be presented by the Society to Mr. Hume, their late Honorary Secretary, and the President was requested to acknowledge them in a public manner. The list of agricultural, would be most acceptable to him.

—The *Bombay Gazette* is informed, that a letter has been received, the writer of which had heard, that distinguished personage had said that the new Ferozepore rules had been passed! Most definite and satisfactory.

—The English School at Bareilly, has been promoted by the Lieutenant Governor to the rank of a College, and Mr. Vincent has been appointed its Principal.

—The *Bombay Times* supplies us with some further details of the expedition which is to be sent from Bombay against the Arabs of the coast of Oman. The Chief of Lahadje has declared his inability to deliver up the murderers of Captain Wylie, but he has no objection to the destruction of the force to be sent will consist of one 25th, and a couple of troops of Ferozepore Irregular Horse, and a small force will consist of two Steam frigates, two sailing vessels, and some transports.

—The *Calcutta* notices upon what authority it has been said, that Cardinal Wiseman has left England to evade the enquiry into the operations of the *Sons of Mary*.









to afford the great body of the clergy in France, whose support he will require in the approaching struggle for the propagation of his views.

The Danish Ministry have resigned in a body, and the result was in a state of confusion. It is supposed that the Danish Ministry will be reconstituted in the near future. The Danish Ministry have resigned in a body, and the result was in a state of confusion. It is supposed that the Danish Ministry will be reconstituted in the near future.

**BERLIN.—MAGNETIC CLOCKS.**—This discovery has been patented at Berlin by Mr. Siemens, President of engineers, who has succeeded himself with an economical watchman. It is a clock which is used for the purpose of measuring time. It is a clock which is used for the purpose of measuring time. It is a clock which is used for the purpose of measuring time.

**DUBLIN, FRIDAY.**—A CANON PAPER (the Apple Core) has the following statement in reference to the "Satan procession" on the 7th of Burke, the Earl of Clarendon.

"It appears that Lord Shrewsbury, to whom that document was addressed, had it transmitted to his Grace and transmitted to the Pope, who forwarded it to the Pope's Chamberlain. They sent a copy of the document to the Pope's Chamberlain. They sent a copy of the document to the Pope's Chamberlain. They sent a copy of the document to the Pope's Chamberlain.

**SWEDISH VISITORS TO THE TABERNACLE.**—The Swedish minister has visited the Tabernacle. The Swedish minister has visited the Tabernacle. The Swedish minister has visited the Tabernacle.

**CRIMINAL CASES.**—A trial which was conducted on Friday in Court of Sessions. The trial was conducted on Friday in Court of Sessions. The trial was conducted on Friday in Court of Sessions.

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accordingly rendered for the plaintiff, and it will, therefore, for the future be understood, that if bankers disregard, or for any other cause, they will have to assume the responsibility. At the same time they may, as a body, be considered themselves injured. At the same time they may, as a body, be considered themselves injured.

**WARRANT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE CROWN,** against the Principal and Professors of Owen's College, and the Principal and Professors of Owen's College. The warrant has been issued by the Crown. The warrant has been issued by the Crown.

**THE AMERICAN PACKET STATION.**—The American Packet Station. The American Packet Station. The American Packet Station.

**SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT AT PORTERS.**—The speech of the President at Porters. The speech of the President at Porters. The speech of the President at Porters.

**IRELAND, THE HARVEST AND THE FUTURE.**—Ireland, the harvest and the future. Ireland, the harvest and the future. Ireland, the harvest and the future.

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to themselves, as a continual drain upon their resources, as unendurable difficulty to the understanding, as a new grievance to the feelings and an insupportable spectacle to the eye. The attraction once set on foot, it is time, in the opinion of the attraction, and been seized by the satisfaction of that body. The attraction once set on foot, it is time, in the opinion of the attraction, and been seized by the satisfaction of that body.

The harvest of the year was not so good as the harvest of the year. The harvest of the year was not so good as the harvest of the year. The harvest of the year was not so good as the harvest of the year.

**IRELAND, THE HARVEST AND THE FUTURE.**—Ireland, the harvest and the future. Ireland, the harvest and the future. Ireland, the harvest and the future.











**AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.**

Calcutta branch of the Agra and United Bank, in addition to ordinary banking business.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPOST OVERLAND MAIL FROM P. AND C. A. STEAMER  
"ORIENTAL," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Surat, and the Intermediate Ports (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel *Oriental* will be closed at this Office, on Saturday, the 6th Proximo, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Monday, the 8th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kedgees, in time to reach the Sumner. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Oriental* can be received after 3 P. M. of that date.

J. R. BURLINGTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Calcutta, Genl. Post Office, the 29th August, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donations—  
From A. Friend, Esq. Rs. 5, to the Benevolent Institution, Calcutta.

**OVERLAND SUMMARY.**—The Overland Mail of the 25th July arrived in Calcutta on the afternoon of Monday, the 1st instant, after a long passage of Thirty-nine days. The intelligence it brings us is of considerable interest, though not of any great importance. The Queen has paid her promised visit to the City, which was brilliantly illuminated on the occasion, and conferred the dignity of a baronet on the Lord Mayor, and knighted the two sheriffs, Aldermen Hodgkinson and Carden, as honour, we have no doubt, they would have been glad to escape. The Court are now at Osborne House, her Majesty having apparently completed her investigation of the treasures of the Crystal Palace. It appears probable, that the splendid edifice will, after all, be retained, as the people are already beginning to petition for its continuance; one such petition has received upwards of Thirty thousand signatures. Meanwhile, the daily throng of visitors continues to increase, and the last recorded average was not less than Seventy thousand per day; it is in fact, a population equal to that of a large town poured into a single building. The most excellent order has hitherto prevailed, and no cases of theft of any importance have yet been recorded. The political intelligence of the fortnight is chiefly comprised in Alderman Salomons' resolute attempt to take his seat in the House of Commons in defiance of the Upper House, who have, for the fifth time, thrown out the Jew Bill, by a majority of 164 to 108. On Friday, the 15th August, the Alderman appeared, and repeated the oath on the Old Testament, until he came to the phrase, "upon the true oath of a Christian man," and this of course he omitted. He then demanded to be allowed to subscribe the oath of abjuration, and to describe his property qualification, which he did amid a storm of cries from every part of the House. The Speaker of course decided, that the omission of a portion of the oath was in fact tantamount to not taking it at all, and ordered the Hon. Member for Greenwich to retire. The honourable Member, however, refused to do any thing of the kind, and it was not until the Sergeant at Arms made his appearance, and touched his shoulder, that he retreated to the back seats under the gallery. On the following Monday, the scene was repeated, and the Alderman took his seat and voted six times, thereby braving all the penalties attached to such an act. Indeed, he dis-

tinctly stated, that he was desirous of forcing the Government into a prosecution, in order that the great question might be fairly tried before the Judges. The Ministry, however, declared, that they would not prosecute, and the question for the present stands adjourned. It appears to be agreed on all sides, that the Alderman behaved exceedingly well throughout the affair, never displaying more than the precise amount of obstinacy requisite to secure what he deemed his rights. There is no doubt he will be defeated, but he has secured his seat for the next Parliament, which may possibly be of a different temper. Lord John Russell's New Reform Bill begins to loom large in the political horizon, as he has already dropped hints which indicate the probability of a very "broad" measure. For instance, the bill for allowing property situated in British colonies and dependencies to be considered a qualification, has been withdrawn, Lord John Russell pledging himself to introduce it into his own scheme. He declared that "in the lapse of time, the qualifications required for Members of the House of Commons had become practical nullities, and that the qualification derived from real property had now become illusory." These are strong expressions from the first Minister of the Crown, and as the Whigs are well aware that with the present constituency, their ultimate defeat is certain, they may possibly introduce a bill which will practically amount to what is called in other countries "a revision of the constitution." The great debate upon the conduct of Sir James Brooke in exterminating the Dyak pirates, has terminated in his triumphant acquittal by a majority of Two hundred and thirty members of the House of Commons to Nineteen. Rajah Brooke is therefore at liberty to return to his own dominions, and resume his labours for the protection of British commerce in the Eastern seas. The Ecclesiastical Titles bill has been read a second time in the House of Lords, and will, it is believed, be passed without any further opposition, and so that interminable piece of legislation is at last satisfactorily settled. The resignation of his seat by the Earl of Arundel, has created considerable excitement. It is rumoured, and the rumour is partly borne out by his own expressions, that Lord Arundel resigns in consequence of the Pope having expressed displeasure at his conduct with reference to this Bill. This kind of dictation is far more calculated to offend the influential portion of the English public, than the most arrogant bull that ever issued from the Flaminian Gate. The Indian Marriages Bill has been printed, but our summarists in their scanty analysis of its provisions avoid, as usual, all notice of its most important provisions. The Eastern Steam Navigation Company, of which little has lately been heard, has obtained a Charter, and its shares have risen rapidly. There can be little doubt, therefore, that the party engaged in it, do really intend to organise a strong opposition to the Peninsular and Oriental. The Eastern Iron Company, formed for the purpose of working the Madras Iron mines, has also received the same boon. Dr. Lingard, the Roman Catholic Historian of England, and Dr. Moir, the Delta of Blackwood are among the casualties of the fortnight.

On the present, the chief topic of interest

is the revision of the French constitution. The measure has been voted by a majority of 116 to 278, but this majority, great as it is, is not sufficient to carry the measure, as the constitution requires the concurrence of a clear two-thirds of the members. The moral effect is, however, the same, and amounts to this, that the great bulk of the Assembly are inclined to support the re-election of Louis Napoleon. As there can be little doubt that the votes of the departments will also be given in his favor, the chances of the next election may be considered decided, unless the Red Republicans should "descend into the streets."

The remainder of the foreign intelligence is of no general interest.

## THE REFORM OF THE CHOWKEDARIE SYSTEM.

—Our article on the draft of an Act for the reform of the Village Watch throughout Bengal and Behar, has called forth certain remarks in the *Englishman* of Friday last, which appear to require some notice. The magnitude and importance of the subject, which is connected with the foundation of our Police system, renders it unnecessary to offer any apology for recurring to it. We commended the proposed Act because it involved no startling change in the organization of this force, and no innovation which could alarm the most timid. Our contemporary asks, who are the timid whom a change would alarm, and who are those who would start back in dread from an innovation. But, surely, this is no question for him to ask, or for us to answer. He can scarcely fail to perceive that the bold and radical reform of the whole system, which was proposed by Mr. Halliday in connection with the Police Reform fourteen years ago, in one of the ablest minutes ever published in India, must have encountered some serious opposition in very influential quarters, or it would not have been laid on the shelf for so long a period, without the slightest attempt to carry it into effect. The total quiescence of Government for fourteen years will fully bear out our assumption that the scheme must have experienced the most serious resistance; it will also justify us in commending the present cautious and prudent mode of conducting the attack on this great evil. Neither can we admit the assertion of the *Englishman*, that the present draft carries inefficiency on its very face, and that it leaves the Chowkedar system nearly whole as it at present stands. At present, the Chowkedars are appointed, no one can tell how, in some places by the landholder, in others by the inhabitants, and in many villages, by no one. The proposed Act enforces the appointment of one watchman to every fifty houses, and thus provides for completing the complement of this force. At present, the Magistrate has little, if any, power to insist on the ejectment of improper men from the establishment, and the cases in which he is by law allowed to interfere, are so very limited as to render him comparatively powerless as regards maintaining the efficiency of the force. By the new Act, he can direct the removal of objectionable characters, and if his wishes are not attended to, he may appoint others in their stead. At present, the watchmen, are ill-paid and underpaid; the sources to which they are to look for payment is quite undefined and uncertain,

authority, by law, provide for the punctual returns. By the new Act, the Magistrate is directed to see that every watchman receives an adequate allowance,—which is generally understood to mean three Rupees a month—and where no rule for payment exists he is to hold the seminar, or talookdar responsible for the amount. Not only are these provisions great and unquestionable improvements, the result of which must be to raise the character and efficiency of this force, but they are precisely those preliminary measures which must have been adopted and completed, preparatory to any system of reform in the system which any one might have suggested. Although perfectly unostentatious and unpretending, they are of the most vital and fundamental importance. When the Act has been fully carried out, we shall have this vast constabulary force for the first time completed to its full numbers; with the source of its allowances in each instance clearly defined and recorded: we shall have it brought into close relationship with the Magistrate, first, by his having power to weed out inefficient men, and secondly by his being authorized to secure the whole of the punctual payment of their allowances. The village watch will thus be completely organized, equipped and provided for, and that by an arrangement so simple and so obviously necessary, as to alarm no prejudices.

When this first step in reform has been completed, it will remain for Government to take the second step towards rendering this force, as our contemporary expresses it, "energetic, active and vigilant, under the supervision and superintendence of experienced inspectors." Government will then be enabled to reconstruct all its police arrangements in the interior, and by the appointment of new officers of intermediate control, bring every transaction throughout his circle to the knowledge of the Magistrate, and place the whole police force in the district under his centralized and vigilant supervision. It is not likely that the Government from which such an Act as the present emanates will require much prompting to consummate the work which has been thus auspiciously commenced; but we feel confident from the perusal of the article in the *Englishman*, that the efforts of our contemporary will not be wanting to stimulate the energies of the public authorities, if at any time during the progress of the reform, they should appear to require such a flapper.

**REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.**—The *Madras Athenaeum* informs us, that it is understood that the Court of Directors have placed the settlement of the Postage question in the hands of the Governor General, that the Post Office Commissioners have recommended a reduction of the charge on the conveyance of newspapers to One Anna a copy, and the most extensive reduction in the rates now charged for letters, and that the expected loss of revenue has been set down at about Nine lakhs of Rupees.—The special object of the Commissioners has been to encourage correspondence in the native community, and they have therefore proposed to take as the basis of their reform a uniform rate of half an anna for every letter weighing a quarter of a tical, with a proportionate increase of charge for every increase of weight. The reader will at once perceive that such a scheme will confer a benefit on the country, of which it would be difficult to calculate the extent. From the rate now charged by the Post Office, a letter weighing half a tical would cost the writer one anna, and a letter weighing a tical would cost him two annas. By the proposed reform, a letter weighing half a tical would cost him only half an anna, and a letter weighing a tical would cost him only one anna. This would be a great benefit to the country, and would tend to increase the circulation of letters.

success which attended Mr. Montgomery's efforts to make the semindars draw a source of advantage to the whole community in his district, we are led to suppose that the proposed system of reform, will also embrace the reorganization of the semindar dawk, so as to enable every Native in India to send a letter to his own village and hearth, for a sum not exceeding One anna, whatever may be the distance. There can be no hesitation, whatever, in saying, that this social improvement will prove a greater boon to the Million, and produce a greater and more beneficial change in the habits and comforts of native society, than any measure which the British Government has adopted since its first establishment. Certain we are, that no act of Lord Dalhousie's government will so serve to render it memorable, or associate the remembrance of it with such lively feelings of gratitude, as this arrangement for a cheap and uniform postage. Long after he has retired from this country to his native land, he will be led, by the voice of universal gratulation, to look back upon the idea of appointing Mr. Beadon to superintend the improvement of our postal system, which was conceived and matured on the voyage to and from Singapore, as the happiest and brightest of his administration.

We are not disposed to consider the immediate sacrifice of revenue which the new plan involves, in the light of a loss. It would be more in accordance with past experience to regard it as a risk. This sum of Nine lakhs of Rupees is the utmost possible loss which the adoption of a uniform rate of low postage as stated above would involve, supposing no increase of correspondence were to follow the reduction. But we have shown in former numbers that in every instance in which the Government has lowered the postage, the returns from that office have rather increased than diminished. And why should we despair of seeing this sum of Nine lakhs of Rupees amply made up in the course of a very short period, by the rapid increase of correspondence? But, supposing the whole Nine lakhs of Rupees to be absolutely lost,—although the loss of it would be the greatest miracle of modern times—what is this sum when compared, on the one hand with the magnitude of the boon, and on the other with the magnitude of our revenues? In order to introduce a uniform penny postage in England, the Ministry risked a revenue of One Million out of Fifty-four Millions sterling. The Hon. the East India Company in order to confer the same boon on one-eighth of the family of man is required to risk only 90,000, out of a gross income of Twenty-seven millions sterling. To suppose that the Court of Directors will for one moment hesitate to sanction this measure, would be the greatest slander which has ever been cast on them. We believe they have public spirit enough for so useful and brilliant a reformation; and it is upon this ground that we are disposed to rest our hopes. Some of our contemporaries have been dwelling on the immense benefit which the adoption of such a measure, at such a time as the present, when the Court are called to shew cause for the renewal of their privileges, would confer on them. They reason justly. The boundless usefulness, and the universal popularity of this great measure, will do more to secure the renewal of their Charter than any other measure which could have been devised. Of such material assistance will it be to their interests to be able to state in Parliament that they have established a uniform postage throughout the East, at a considerable sacrifice of revenue that

they will be looking out with the deepest anxiety for the early passing of the Act, and for the despatches which shall enable Sir James Hogg to rise in his place in Parliament, and assume all the merit of this liberal measure for the corporation he represents. But although it is for the highest interest of the Court of Directors to grant us this boon at the earliest practicable period, yet, we had much rather look to their public spirit and philanthropy for this measure, than to any feeling of corporate interest.

The Report itself is said to occupy about 125 foolscap pages, and the Appendices make about four times as much. It has already been printed for private circulation among the members of the administration. It must have reached Lord Dalhousie by this time, and he will thus be enabled to examine its various propositions with the greatest facility, and, we trust, to make up his mind on the subject before he reaches Calcutta.

**FIRST WIFE OF WARREN HASTINGS.**—Some time ago it was stated in the papers, that the tomb of the first wife of Warren Hastings, had been pointed out to the Bishop of Calcutta at Cosimbazar, who immediately ordered a sum of money to be expended in putting it in repair. This lady was the widow of Captain Campbell, with whom Hastings formed an acquaintance at Pula, when the fugitives from Calcutta had fled thither, and to whom he was married before the close of 1756. She bore him two children, both of whom died in infancy, and she herself fell a victim to the climate in 1759. A friend at Benharore has just sent us a description of the tomb which may not be uninteresting to some of our readers. It is in a small enclosed tomb yard, immediately beyond the old Residency compound, in company with about twenty-five other tombs. The inscription is on white marble, placed in a very curiously constructed pent roofed tomb, made of Chunar sand stone and Rajmahal hornblende, supported by rudely carved basaltic pillars in the same place. The tomb is closed to the South and East by stone walls. The inscription runs thus:—

To the Memory of  
MRS. MARY HASTINGS,  
And her infant daughter ESTHER.

She died the 11th of July 1759.

In the 2<sup>d</sup> of her age.

This monument was erected  
By her husband,

WARREN HASTINGS, Esq.

In due regard to her Memory.

Only one figure appears in Mrs. Hastings's age, a large space having been left for the other; but this must be attributed to the ignorance of the sculptor.

Among a number of other curious inscriptions, the following is to be found:

SARAH MATCOCKS,

April 27.

Much lamented by her husband,

Lieutenant Colonel JOHN MATCOCKS.

Was the grand-daughter of the

Great John Hastings, Esq.,

Offl. James's Westminster.

There is but one great John Hastings in English History; and he, who fell in 1643, could scarcely have had a grand-daughter born in 1751.

**THE BANKS OF THE NORTH WEST.**—The reports of the half-yearly Meetings of the North Western Banks are beginning to flow in, and it is curious to observe how much they resemble each other in certain essential features, though each Institution differs from the others in the nature of its capital, and the nature of its business. They all give good dividends.



are obliged to our country, because it gives an opportunity of pressing on the notice of the importance of the scheme, and great acceleration of promotion it is likely to create. The object of it is to buy out the Lieutenant Colonels, the retirement of each one of whom, gives promotion to one Major, one Captain, one Lieutenant and one Ensign. And the plan is very simple; the Major, Captain, Lieutenant, and Ensign who gain by the step are to pay the highest sum, and those officers of each grade who are at the farthest distance from any benefit will pay the least. With respect, however, to the amount of Bonus intended to be paid to Lieut. Colonels, *Vale* will permit us to say that the letter of *Young Promotion* in the *Messallite* of the 14th June, 1860, to which we especially alluded in our article, bears out our statement rather than his own. In that letter, Rs. 20,000 is only spoken of as the Bonus, on the supposition that Rs. 25,000 would be considered by a Committee of experienced officers too much to give. With respect to the subscription to be paid, we were in error, as the amount is intended to vary in each grade according to arithmetical progression. Thus, the 78th Major in the list, will for every step secured, pay five Rupees, the next above him Ten Rupees, and so on, while the senior Captain of the 78th Regiment for promotion pays 2 Rupees, of the next Regiment, 4 Rupees, of the next, 6 Rupees, and so on. In the same way, the senior Lieutenants will begin with Rs. 1, and the senior Ensign with 5 As., the payment increasing in arithmetical progression, according to the proximity of the Regiment to promotion from the line step. Those who benefit least from the step, will therefore pay the trifling sums above mentioned, while the highest that can be required of a Captain is Rs. 150, of a Lieutenant, Rs. 75, and of an Ensign, Rs. 24-6; and in this case, the subscribers at once obtain the higher grade, and the higher pay attached to it. Besides this, the second seniors of the grades of Captain, Lieutenant and Ensign in the two European corps will be called upon for the contributions of their rank, and many junior Lieutenant Colonels have expressed their willingness to pay their quota.

The total amount for each step thus collected will be

From 78 Major, ... ..	Rs. 15,405 0
... 78 senior, (and 2 second senior) Cap- tains ... ..	6,102 0
78 ditto, ditto, Lieutenants, ... ..	3,081 0
78 (senior 76 and 2d senior 2) Ensigns and 2d Lieutenants, ... ..	982 10
<b>Total, ... ..</b>	<b>26,510 10</b>

This is the statement of *Young Promotion*, and the Rs. 5000 beyond the Rs. 20,000 required for the bonus is, as we learn from *Vale*, intended to provide for doubtful and unwilling shares of seniors of grades, and of the Regimental Majors, who can't or won't pay, office contingencies, &c."

Such is the scheme, and it is calculated that it will accelerate promotion by more than two years, at the lowest computation; a boon which many officers who after Twenty-eight years' service are still Captains are quite competent to estimate. The probabilities of success, moreover, are every day becoming brighter. No less than Nine hundred officers have joined the Fund, and there are several Regiments which have not yet forwarded the result of their canvass, while not a few officers are on Furlough. 12,000 Rupees have already been paid into the Banks of the North-West, and one young Lieutenant Colonel, has announced his readiness to accept the Bonus. The adherence of the remain-

der to the scheme is, we hope, a mere question of time, and it would in all probability, be accelerated, were a circular sent to every Regiment, with a table, showing the exact amount to be paid by the officers of that Regiment, for the next step bought. We desire also to notice prominently *Vale's* hint, that all drafts, whether paid to the Banks or to the President, should have the names of the Secretaries of the former, or Captain C. Athorp, 41st N. I. of Mooltan, inserted in them.

Of the abstract advantages of such a Fund both to the Army and the State, there can be little doubt. The Court of Directors have long felt that the disadvantages of the purchase system which prevails in the Royal Army, are almost counterbalanced by the chance it affords officers of attaining a Regimental command before their energies are completely worn out. It was to remedy this evil, that they penned the order of the 29th November 1837, which is still in force, and which places the law of the question, as far as they are concerned, in a clear light.

"We see no necessity for interfering with the arrangements which the Junior officers of a regiment may make in individual cases for adding to the comforts of a senior officer, on his retirement from the service on the pension to which he may be entitled."

"The regulation of 1798, requiring officers, upon retirement to make such that they have received no pecuniary consideration for quitting the service, has not been enforced by us in any single case of retirement in England, during the period of nearly forty years, which has since elapsed. It was established, chiefly upon financial grounds to prevent facilities have been required, and have been given for enabling officers to retire upon full pay. We shall, therefore, continue to suspend the operation of the rule; and officers, retiring from time to time, will not be called upon to make the declaration, unless the financial necessity, to which we have referred (and of which due notice shall be given) shall, at a future period, be fully realized."

**A FEW WORDS ON DRESS.**—The following is one of the most sensible orders which have been issued from any department of the Government for many years back:—

1. "In consideration of the extreme heat which prevails during some months of the year at most of the Military Stations under this Presidency, the Commander-in-Chief is pleased to sanction white linen Jackets being worn during the hot season in "undress," in lieu of the cloth jacket, by all Officers, whether on or off duty, the particular periods for their use being left to be fixed by station Commanding Officers under the orders of General or other Officers Commanding Divisions and separate Districts.

The white jacket is to be of pure plain, with folding collar, pointed cuff, and small regulation buttons (Staff or Regimental) down the front. It is to be worn buttoned up, with white linen trousers and plain black silk necktie, on all occasions, on duty, but at other times may be worn open with white linen waistcoat.

The indulgence of wearing white linen clothing during the hot season, whether on or off duty, now granted to Officers, is extended to the men of all Regiments, European and Native."

Down to a period of about fifteen years ago, our modes and habits of living at this Presidency had been gradually acquiring that adaptation to the climate which is so essential to health, ease and comfort. For many years after the establishment of Calcutta as the capital of a new empire, its European residents did not seem to comprehend the mode of accommodating themselves to the circumstances of the country. They had none but hand punkas, which gave only a partial ventilation. The lower floor of every house was level with the ground, and the humidity of the rooms proved fatal to health; the windows had nothing but a cane lattice work opening within, and doors without. The idea of a punkah at night was never dreamt of. Lastly our countrymen became more reasonable. Every room was provided with a large

punkah, swung from the roof, which afforded a clear circulation of air throughout, and twenty-five years after the invention of the punkah, its value was doubled by the addition of a fall. Then, again, the lower rooms were raised by means of flues, so as to prevent humidity, and we have latterly given the floors a coating of pitch, which has rendered them perfectly dry and wholesome in the dampest weather. For the cane lattice work of the windows we have substituted sashes and venetians, and every house is built so as to enjoy as broad a southern aspect as possible. And, in the article of dress, even the Judges of the Supreme Court have shown their good sense by dispensing with their cumbersome ermine, and wigs.

In one respect, however, we have grievously retrograded. A quarter of a century ago, the dress of the Civil and Military sections of society was very wisely adapted to a country in which the hot weather the thermometer rises to 90° within doors, and in the rains, though it falls to 58 or 60°, the closeness of the atmosphere renders the heat and oppression almost intolerable. White jackets were the order of the day, and even the officers of the army were permitted to wear them, with one or two distinguishing points to denote their profession. But ever since Steam communication has brought England nearer to India, we have been becoming more English and less oriental in our habits, and it has unfortunately become the fashion to dispense, for the most part, with white jackets either on the course or at meals. In the hottest and most melting months of the year, twenty or thirty black coats may now be seen down the two lines of a dinner table, as if the thermometer was down at 60°. The officers of the army have been obliged to relinquish their light and comfortable jackets, and to encumber themselves with coats of intolerable weight. It is no wonder, therefore, that Lord Hardinge should have remarked after he had been three or four days in Calcutta, that he must go back to Grand Cairo to see the heat.

The Commander-in-Chief at Bombay has now restored the use of jackets to the officers of the Bombay army, and a greater boon in reference to dress he could not have conferred on them. We earnestly hope this excellent example will be followed immediately by the Head of the Army at the other Presidencies, and more especially at this. Since Sir W. Gomm assumed charge of the army, we have had occasion to notice some very important improvements which his Excellency has been endeavouring to introduce. If he would earn the benison of every man who wears a red coat, throughout this army, let him re-instate the order passed at Bombay, and during the liver-frying months of the year, allow the officers to appear on parade, in white jackets. The inestimable blessing of this improvement will soon extend beyond the military circle. The army, from its preponderant numbers, must necessarily give the tone to the social habits of society; and we shall soon have it as fashionable for gentlemen, generally, to appear in white jackets, as it is now considered snobbish. When the Brigadier is seen to enter the drawing room with a light regulation white jacket on, surely the Secretaries to Government, and the Members of the Board, and the Judges of the Sudder will not be long in following the example, and we shall then have the uniform of black coats confined to those who wear white neckcloths.

**PORTRAIT OF THE BISHOP OF CALCUTTA.**—We acknowledged last week the receipt of an



emerging from the portals of the Bishop of Calcutta, taken by Mr. O. Grant, whose many successful efforts in this line have fairly entitled him to rank as the Calcutta artist. We may mention for the information of such of our readers as have not had an opportunity of seeing the original picture, that it is a full length, representing his Lordship sitting in his library. As we cannot boast of any great acquaintance with the technical portion of the engraver's art, we shall not attempt to discover the defects in execution which perhaps exist. To our eyes, the picture appears to have been excellently engraved, and the likeness is really admirable. Perhaps, the face would be improved by a little more expression, but beyond this, we can see little to criticize, and the engraving will, we doubt not, be acceptable to all the friends of one on whom the weight of years begins now to press heavily.

**THE LATE MR. BETHUNE'S SCHOOL.**—We are happy to learn from the columns of the *Hurree* and the *Englishtman*, that Lord Dalhousie has expressed his intention of adopting Mr. Bethune's female School as his own and Lady Dalhousie as long as they remain in India. His Lordship looks upon the institution with great interest, as containing the germ of great results, and lest any uncertainty or doubt regarding its perpetuity should arise from the delay caused by a reference to the Court of Directors, to whom such a reference must be made, he desires to take the charge upon himself, and when he comes to Calcutta, both he and Lady Dalhousie will bestow every possible attention on it. It would be an act of idle flattery to laud an act dictated by the impulse of Lord Dalhousie's own generous nature, but we do not hesitate to congratulate all those in the European and native community, who do not consider Hindoo female education "a mistake," but regard it as an essential element of native improvement, on this prospect of seeing Mr. Bethune's great undertaking perpetuated. The adoption of the School by the Governor General will serve to manifest to the Indian authorities at home the importance which is attached to the instruction of native females by those who occupy the highest position in India, and are so well able to form a judgment on the subject. After the step taken by Lord Dalhousie, we may indulge the most sanguine expectations that orders will be sent out at an early period to incorporate the School with the Government institutions, and to provide for the establishment of other Seminaries on the same model, in other parts of the country.

**ORISSA AND ITS EVANGELIZATION, BY DR. SUTTON.**  
[Second and Concluding Notice.]  
The sixth Chapter of this work treats of Poree as a Missionary station, and gives us an ample notice of the place, which, however, we need not recapitulate, as the shrine of Jugganath must by this time be as familiar to the reader as the Valley of Mecca. The most interesting portion of this Chapter is the gorgeous description of the sacred enclosure of Poree, or Jugganath, drawn up by a native writer, which is sold among the pilgrims to excite their devotion. It is now, we believe, published in an English dress for the first time. But for its length, we would as soon transfer it to one own column, as we do to the perusal of the reader, as a most vivid representation of the appeals which we made to the superstitious feelings of the natives. As a specimen of its style, we may give the opening sentence. "North of the ocean lies the divine inheritance of Bharu. In that inheritance is the mystic pool, of which the waters, which wind to the distance of twenty miles, are half from the centre. The Navel of this shall figure the centre of the divine inheritance, and on it stands the divinely celebrated Blue Mountains, to the name of which listen with reverence."—From this description of the religious wonders and merits of the great idol whom all India worships, Dr. Sutton's work very naturally leads to the unshakable connection of the Government of India with this shrine, to which nearly twenty pages are devoted. That connection is about to cease for ever, and we need not dwell upon the arguments brought forward against it, more especially as, having just reviewed our mild Jugganath Blue book, we shall shortly give our final article on the subject. Before the next year begins, the question will have passed from the domain of Politics to that of History.

By far the largest portion of this work is occupied with a narrative of the Mission established in Orissa, by the General Baptist Missionary Society, of which Dr. Sutton is one of the most active and distinguished Missionaries. The first efforts for the evangelization of this province were made by the Serampore Missionaries. After Dr. Carey had completed the publication of the New Testament in the Oriya language, and he and his Colleagues sent Mr. John Facer into the province as their Missionary agent for the distribution of it. He was stationed at Balasore, on the confines of the province, where he labored with great earnestness and with some success for seven or eight years; after which he was withdrawn. It was about this time that a Society was formed in the General Baptist community in England, for the establishment of a Mission to the Heathen, and Mr. Ward, one of the Serampore Missionaries, having soon after visited his native land, undertook to be their guide and helper in this enterprise. Messrs. Bampton and Peggs, their two first Missionaries, came out in company with him, and after consultation with the Missionaries at Serampore, selected the province of Orissa as the seat of the Mission. The two laborers landed on the coast of Orissa on the 12th February, 1822, and proceeded to Cuttack, where they commenced their labors, and were subsequently joined by Mr. Lucy, Mr. now Dr. Sutton and other Missionaries. But in less than a year before their exertions were crowned with success. The first convert, a high caste Brahman, was baptized in March 1823. Fifteen years after, a Society was formed in the kindred branch of the Baptist Church in America, and their first Missionaries were sent to Sumbulpore, but the insularity of the climate constrained them to remove into Orissa Proper, which they now occupy the northern division, while their English brethren occupy the middle and southern districts. The Press has been one of the most powerful instruments of Orissa Missionaries, and few Missionary bodies in India have availed themselves of it with more assiduity or success. The whole Bible has been translated into the language of the province, and printed at the Mission Press at Cuttack. The Missionaries, and more particularly Dr. Sutton, early engaged in the preparation of Tracts, and their list now comprehends more than fifty. In addition to these, "several large religious works, and elementary School Books have been prepared." To the former class, belong that of Dalhousie's *Blue Book*, and the *Pilgrim's Progress*,—which before any century has elapsed will probably be the only work except the Bible which has been translated into every known language in the world.—Barth's Church History and extracts from Baxter's Call. Among the latter may be enumerated Elements of Geography, Astronomy and Natural History; Reflections on the Works of God; a Companion to the Bible; Pulp of Day and Line upon Line; Sketches of Oriental and Indian History, Dictionaries, Grammar and Vocabulary, and many others.

The last ten Chapters of the work will be read with much pleasure by all who feel an interest in the successful prosecution of Missionary labors. The field of Missionary labor in Orissa has the advantage of being occupied by members of one denomination; and the Mission has not therefore to contend with the disturbing influence of rival establishments. Hitherto, the Missionaries have happily been untroubled in their evangelical labors. They are much distinguished for devoting their energies more particularly to the department of interesting and preaching. At the same time, they have not neglected the duties of education, but have been dili-

gently employed, to the full... the establishment of Schools, more tuition of the Christian youths in them. All these labors are fully detailed in the last... of the work, and will be found to afford instruction, and to embody much experience, in regard to the Missionary enterprise. To these Chapters we must therefore refer the reader, for a narrative of the gradual progress and success of their labors, and a full description of the various plans which they have gradually devised and matured for planting the gospel and causing it to take root, in this Paradise of Heathen men. All their labors, both in preaching, in the preparation of books, and in education, have, moreover, had a very distinct and specific vernacular direction. At first, they opened an English Charity School in Cuttack, but it involved much labor, and afforded little hope of success; and the Missionaries were happy to make over the boys to the Government Schoolmaster, whose labors are more arduous than successful. The province of Orissa has a strong indigenous character, and all the institutions, habits and attachments of the people are so closely linked with their own cherished language, that there is little prospect of spreading knowledge or civilization through a foreign medium. The Pathans held sovereignty in it for four times the period in which it has been in our possession; and they settled in it to such an extent that one-seventh of the inhabitants are at the present day Mahomedans, yet Persian is little known. The means of social, political, and evangelical elevation must be given to the people through their own tongue, and Missionaries have acted wisely in devoting their attention to the cultivation and improvement of it. What is now wanted, is simply that the number of Missionary laborers should be increased, four, five, and if possible ten-fold, that the admirable plans which have been matured be carried out on a more extended scale, and that the whole country be thickly dotted with Missionary stations. In conclusion, we would add that Dr. Sutton has performed a most acceptable service to the Christian world, by the publication of a work, in which the peculiar plan of operations adopted by the Mission here is connected with, and its successive and successful development, have been so clearly traced.

**HITOPADESA.**—We have to acknowledge the receipt of a reprint of Sir Wm. Jones' translation of the *Hitopadesa*, issued from the *Poorneuchandroog Press*. The translation is too well known to need any remarks from us, but it had nearly been got out of print, and we are glad to see, that the demand for it in its English dress, is sufficient to warrant the present undertaking. It is remarkably well printed, and is sold, we believe, at the low price of one Rupee.

WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23.

On the 12th August, two natives were brought up before the Chief Magistrate of Madras charged with beating many two natives to death, and murdering one from Pondicherry to the Mauritius. They had promised the men Rs. 10 and some fine cloths, if they would embark from that town. The charge was clearly proved, and the men fined four hundred Rupees each. The master does not appear very clear, unless as it is most probable, the real intention of the natives was to ship the coolies for the sale de la Réunion. The intent, Captain R. P. Clouston, has little or no interest in the Mauritius, and the same is that island may have been used as a decoy.

Among our selections, will be found a list published by the *Bombay Times* of the works most accessible to those who desire to study the religion and superstitions of the Buddhists. The Editor may add to the list Lieut. Latte's *Burmese Literature*, Sir E. Tennant's *Christianity in Ceylon*, and, though not so recent, Captain R. P. Clouston's papers, should they ever be published. That officer had studied the subject deeply, and among his papers there are, we believe, many not lost, and on the ancient prevalence of Buddhism in Upper India.

A gang of rascals has been detected at Bombay, whose occupation, it appears, is to induce youths on themselves with the view of inducing others for transportation to the colonies. Several parties have, of late, been brought up to the Police Office and the sessions, charged with having attempted to cut the throats of various parties, and in several cases the police have been obliged to fire upon the gang. The first clue to their existence was given by one of their own number who in hospital, and the police are now actively employed in investigating the affair. But as neither party, nor the sessions, have been made public, it may be worth while to enquire, what























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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL BY HONOLULU.  
THE Government of Honolulu having extended the 1st of the ensuing month of October for the departure of the P. M. S. S. ship "Albatross" to the Sandwich Islands, the Government of Honolulu has decided to extend the departure of the "Albatross" to the 1st of November, and to send the "Albatross" to the Sandwich Islands, and to send the "Albatross" to the Sandwich Islands, and to send the "Albatross" to the Sandwich Islands.

J. R. BURTON BENNETT,  
Post Master General.  
Gen. Post Office, the 5th Sept., 1851.

THE POSTAGE ON NEWSPAPERS IN INDIA.—The Editor of the *Calcutta Chronicle* has obtained a copy of the printed Report of the Commissioners of Post Office Enquiry, and given his readers an abstract of some of its most interesting details. The most important fact which is thus disclosed refers to the charge for the conveyance of newspapers throughout India, which at present is at the rate of two annas, or three pence a cover, for a distance not exceeding 400 miles, and three annas, or four pence half penny, for all greater distances. The universally expressed wish of the public for many years has been that the charge should be reduced to a uniform rate of an anna a cover without reference to distance; and it has been the general expectation that this reduction would be included in the reforms recommended by the Commissioners. It is now discovered that they propose to continue the present oppressive rates. The information takes the public completely by surprise, in which we fully participate. The fact is, that we were led to consider this concession to the convenience of those who contribute to the revenues of the Post office so certain, and so entirely beyond all risk of failure, that it never occurred to us to make any enquiry whatever on the subject, and hence our anxiety was written under the firm impression that the postage on newspapers would share in the reductions which had been proposed. Notwithstanding this disappointment, we are not disposed to qualify one iota of the commendation which we conscientiously bestowed on the proposed reforms last week. The establishment of a uniform rate of postage throughout India of half an anna a letter will be an inestimable boon to the country, and, if it can be carried, will reflect the highest credit on the Commissioners who have proposed it, and the Government who adopt it. It will be one of the greatest blessings ever conferred on India, by any Government, and will do more than any other measure yet devised for the social comfort and improvement of its inhabitants. At the same time, we believe that in excluding the reduction of newspaper postage from their arrangements, they have committed a mistake, and for sensible men, a very great mistake. In underestimating the importance of the circulation of knowledge and information among the European community in India, official and lay, and having a heavy, and in many cases a prohibitory, tax on the circulation not only of local journals, and periodical pub-

lications but also of all the English journals and magazines; secondly, in arraying against their plans, the universal, as well as the reasonable hostility of a people who are unwidely despised, and, thirdly, in neglecting the obvious course for an ulterior object than to reduce the risk of loss, entailed by Postal reform, from nine lakhs to a half to nine tenths of that sum; as if the Court of Directors were likely to care much for the odd half lakh, when they were called to sacrifice eighteen times that sum.

We must not forget, however, that the Commissioners have been long separated from their native country, and cannot be expected to understand or appreciate the importance which, since their exile began, has been attached to the free circulation of intelligence and knowledge by all our leading and influential men at home. We think, that if the three Commissioners had been fresh from England, with their impressions as yet unclouded, they would not have refused to sanction the general wish of the public for the boon of cheap postage on newspapers. Much has been said, and it is true, to receive the Post Office stamp, or penny stamp, in exchange for postage, would scarcely have allowed the circulation of Newspapers in India to be impeded by a charge of postage, three hundred and fifty per cent. higher. Our expectations must, therefore, be fixed on the sympathies of those who are able to estimate the value of a cheap circulation of newspapers, and the appeal must be made to Parliament during the ensuing discussions, and pushed with all the energy of a united press. Unless, indeed, as we fully expect, Lord Dalhousie, who is so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the age, should at once grant the anna postage. We believe as firmly that we shall obtain this concession, in spite of the Commissioners, as that the Jews will enter into Parliament in spite of the Lords. The Government at home have recently extended the blessing of cheap and uniform postage to pamphlets, periodical publications and books, and these are now circulated throughout the United Kingdom for a sum incredibly small. This, of itself, shows that the cheap diffusion of whatever may tend to enlarge and improve the mind is one of the principles of the times. It is generally understood that the Queen's Government has determined to extend this system to the colonies and the dependencies of Great Britain throughout the world, and we are certain that India will not be excluded from all participation in this improvement, and that we too shall be enabled to receive our English publications, at the same moderate rates, upon the same advantageous terms as the colonists of the Crown. But it will be utterly inconsistent with any such arrangement for the local journals to be subjected to a charge two or three times as severe as a Magazine published in London or Edinburgh. Hence, we consider the establishment of cheap postage for newspapers in India as a measure, which though it may be delayed for a season, by reason of having been excluded from the proposed reforms, cannot be refused. The Commissioners have given the press a tangible object, we may almost call it a grievance, on which all its energies can be concentrated, and in which it will enjoy the sympathy of all those in our native land who influence public mea-

sures. It is a cause of sincere regret, that we are not to owe this boon to the labors of the Commissioners, but that it must be carried in opposition to men to whom India is laid under the deepest obligation for the breadth and liberality of their other reforms.

THE EAST INDIA MARRIAGE BILL passed the House of Commons on the 21th of July, and nothing was wanting to make it law but the Royal Assent, which would be given as a matter of course. By the last Mail we received a copy of the Bill as amended in Committee, and all our fears have been at once dispelled by the perusal of it, and we can now offer our cordial congratulations to the public on the consummation of this measure. Those fears will be at once explained by a reference to the history of the Bill. The Dissenting community in India had repeatedly petitioned the Home authorities, to be placed upon the same footing as their brethren in England regarding the validity of the marriages solemnized by them. The marriage Council officers, Mr. Stuart Worsley, Mr. Lambing, Mr. Richardson, and subsequently, the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, and Sir Edward Ryan were directed to inquire into the merits of the petition. They accordingly presented the Draft of a Bill for Marriages in India to the Queen, which was conceived in so liberal a spirit as to afford the highest satisfaction to every class in India, with the exception of those, if there were any such, who considered any diminution of the exclusive prerogatives and privileges of the Episcopal Church even in a country like this, where it is not established, a great atrocity. That Bill provided for the establishment of Marriage Registrars, who should receive notice of every intended marriage, in which notice the party was to state in what chapel or place he intended to be married. The Registrar was then to grant a certificate, which was to be deemed equivalent to a license, and subsequently to be present at the solemnization of the wedding in the place selected by the bridegroom, and to register the marriage in his record. This was the fundamental principle of the proposed law. A copy of the Draft was sent out for the consideration of the Governor General in Council in 1849, but the subject was so entirely neglected that we find the Commissioners complaining on the 15th of April, 1850, that no communication had been received. The Legislative Council at length awoke from its slumbers, and took the whole Bill to pieces, and made such numerous alterations in it, as to give it the appearance of an entirely new Bill. Unfortunately, they thought fit to extract from it all those liberal and enlightened provisions which had formed its chief recommendation, and to substitute for them others conceived in a spirit of the most unaccountable bigotry and exclusiveness. The original Draft provided that the Bill should be applicable to every marriage celebrated in India; that is, in every instance the parties should apply to the Registrar for a certificate, after which the marriage should be solemnized by any clergyman, in any edifice, and according to any form the parties chose. The Legislative Council, in the first place excluded all marriages celebrated by clergymen of the Church of England from the operation of the Bill, to which, however, we do

not pretend to offer any objection; but in the next place they ordered that every Dissenter should be married by the Judge in his house, or it is said, his Cathedral. The Legislative Council could not have been ignorant that according to the laws established by the British Government in India, every Mahomedan servant had a right to demand the services of a regularly appointed priest, or Cazeer, to celebrate the marriage of his son or daughter at his own house; yet they thought fit to provide, that the Christian master of the Mahomedan, if he did not choose to admit the supremacy of the Crown in matters spiritual, should be subjected to the degradation of having the nuptials of his daughter solemnized by the Judge, and in the Judge's house, or his Court. What was this but teaching the natives of India that though we were so constantly reprobating the unjust distinctions of caste among them, yet we legislated for one class of our own Christian community, as though they were Brahmins, and for others as though they were Pariahs? We know that the answer to all this will be, that the matter was left entirely in the hands of Mr. Bethune; and as he is no longer among us, we will not go farther than express our deep regret that such a Bill should ever be associated with his name. But what were the members of the Legislative Council about, when they consented to allow such a Bill to be sent back to England to be passed by Parliament, without giving the Dissenters an opportunity of knowing what was impending over them? They could not but have known that to send every Dissenter's daughter to the Judge's House to be married by him, must inflict the keenest wound on their feelings, and it was their bounden duty as Legislators, as Christians, and even as gentlemen, to have made public the organic alterations they were making in this Bill, and thus to have given those whose interests were at stake an opportunity of making known their wishes to Parliament, and taking steps for averting the degradation with which they were menaced. Sure we are, that if any one had been acquainted with the circumstances of the case, and had got up in Parliament, and stated that the Bill now before the House, was not the same which had been sent out to India,—though Lord Brougham said it was, that it had been so entirely altered by the Legislative Council as completely to change its character, that these alterations were of the highest degree injurious to those whom alone they were intended to affect, but that, contrary to the uniform practice of the Legislative Council, their proceedings in this case had been carefully withheld from the knowledge of the Dissenting community of India, the reputation of the Legislative Council would have been most seriously compromised.

Fortunately for the reputation of the Council, and fortunately, also, for the interests of the Dissenting community, all the illiberal provisions inserted by the Council have been thrown out, and the Bill restored to its original integrity. The parties who propose to contract marriage under the provisions of the Act, are required to give notice of their intention to the marriage Registrar, not to the Judge, and the notice is to be in such form and contain such particulars as the local Government may prescribe. The parties are at liberty to name by whom they are desirous of being married, according to such form and ceremony as they may see fit to adopt; provided also that every such marriage shall be solemnized between such hours as shall be fixed by the Government of India, in the presence of the marriage Registrar, and of two or

more witnesses. This is all that the Nonconformists in India could have desired. They will now be married by their own Ministers in their own chapels, and in presence of the officer appointed by the state to register the marriage. For this Act, we are indebted to the suggestions which the Bishop of Calcutta made so far back as 1839, when in writing to the Government of India his Lordship said, "If a person calling himself a dissenting minister is now, for the first time since England was a Christian nation, to stand in the place of the priest in holy orders, with the authority of a Divine commission derived through successive consecrations and ordinations from the Apostolic ages, some totally new provisions must be enacted different in all their principles from those of the English marriage Act, or any other Act passed in a British Parliament." The Marriage Commissioners, who have given the Bishop's communication in the Appendix to their Report, appear to have at once adopted this recommendation, and embodied those "new provisions," which were suited to the circumstances of the country, in the Act, which they drafted, and which, after having escaped the dangers of shipwreck, has now become the law of the land. In future, marriages celebrated by a Dissenting minister "even in the heart of Calcutta, with the Cathedral and its clergy within view, in a private meeting House," are to be sanctioned by the presence of an officer of Government appointed to record them, and are declared by the authority of Queen, Lords and Commons, to be "good and valid in law to all intents and purposes."

We have no doubt that the alarm expressed by the Bishop at such marriages, in his correspondence with Government, was occasioned entirely by the dire consequences which he anticipated would flow from them, and which he depicted in the following glowing colors: "a flood of vice and disorder, the ruin and misery of the young, the disturbance of family relations, the wanton riot of headstrong passion and misuse, and the contempt of the religious vow of marriage, may break in upon us." The Bishop will perceive, that the stringent provisions of the Bill regarding the preliminary enquiries which are to be made by the Marriage Registrar, in all cases of marriages solemnized by Dissenting Ministers, have rendered the occurrence of any of these evils utterly impossible, and he will therefore be glad that the same privilege of being married by their own spiritual guide, is now conceded to those who do not belong to the Episcopal section of the Christian Church, which was formerly monopolized by those who were its members. Indeed, the rules laid down for the prevention of clandestine marriages by this Bill, are so much more complete, and effective than those enjoined on the episcopal surrogates, that we should not be surprised to find a growing desire for the extension of the system of Marriage Registrars to the marriages celebrated by episcopal clergymen, and for the substitution of a Certificate in lieu of a Licence, more especially if the latter is found to be four times as cheap as the former.

The Act practically exempts from the operation of its provisions, the marriages of six classes; members of the Churches of Rome and England, members of the Greek and Armenian Churches, members of the Kirk, and Quakers, but it allows the Government of India to provide for the Registration of any marriages, thus solemnized, and the Governor General could do better than to bring them all within the same rules of Registration which are provided in the Act for the marriage of other classes. An instance has just occurred of the abstraction of

the Registers from St. John's Church, by a Clergyman who had officiated there, under the plea that the books were his own personal property. To prevent the recurrence of such a calamity, it would be wise to direct the Marriage Registrar of the District to be present on the part of the state at every marriage performed by a Clergyman of the Church of England, and make the necessary entries in his books for transmission to the Government of India, and Somerset House. Or, the Clergyman himself might be appointed the Registrar, and thus rendered accountable to Government for the correctness and integrity of his Registers; and, in like manner, where advisable, the Dissenting Minister or Missionary, might be appointed Registrar within his own circle.

There is one very amusing error in the Bill as printed by order of the House, after it was amended. The Schedule at the end of it is a table, which contains the Form of the Marriage Register, Book and of the Certificate of Marriage, is that which was drawn up by the Legislative Council, when they made their own liberal alterations in it. It is therefore totally implicable to the new and revised Act. It runs thus—

Married in the Judge's [House] by, [or before] me.

WILLIAM JOHNSON,  
Judge.

But the Act says nothing about the parties being married by the Judge, or in his house, or his cuthery, or even before him. If we were not certain that the republishing of the Schedule verbatim, is a mere inadvertence, we might almost attribute it to the malicious desire of leaving some record of the mode in which the Legislative Council had spoiled the Act. As the parties are not to be married by the Judge, but by the Minister they select, and the marriage is not to be solemnized in any house, or other place belonging to the Judge, or even in his presence, the Schedule must be entirely recast; and brought into conformity with the body of the Act, which ordains that "the entry shall be signed by the person by or before whom the marriage has been solemnized, and by the Marriage Registrar present at such marriage, and also by the parties married, and attested by two witnesses."

#### IMPROVEMENT OF THE TOWN OF CALCUTTA.

—There may yet be some living in the City of Palaces, who remember the disgraceful appearance of the Calcutta bank of the river before the exertions of the Lottery Committee, thirty years ago. No attempt had been made to improve it for fifty years previously, and the increase of the traffic of the town had only served to render it more filthy and disgusting. The Lottery Committee, to whose labors Calcutta has been more indebted than to any other body since the battle of Plassey, among other improvements, removed the wretched hovels which were crowded down to the water's edge, and constructed the noble strand road, for the length of more than a mile, and opened up a view of the shipping, and improved the approaches to the houses and warehouses on the Bank. Unfortunately, however, a spirit of indolence came over the municipal authorities, and no effort was made to maintain the improved appearance of the town at the river face. A large accession of ground was gained by alluvion, and by the dereliction of the rivers which, according to the law and usage of this country, belonged to the Government. But it appears to have been considered no body's business to look after this ground, and to pre-

vent encroachments on it; and private individuals have been allowed to appropriate it to their own accommodation with perfect impunity. The bank of the river between it and the Strand road is now nearly as much encumbered, and disfigured as it was before the Lottery Committee undertook the removal of nuisances.

This is in part to be ascribed to the harassing obstacles which were created by the claims of individuals to the alluvial lands which had been gained by accretion. The prospect of an endless series of litigation in the Supreme Court appears to have deterred Government from continuing the improvements projected by the Lottery Committee; but these difficulties were in part removed by the offer of Government to let the newly formed land to the claimants for a limited period. The proprietors generally came forward and took the land immediately opposite to their premises, and the whole of this newly formed land with some exceptions has since been, and now is, in the possession of Government, who receive rent from the occupants. But legal arrangements were still necessary to complete the matter, and enable Government to carry forward the improvements which had been originally contemplated, more especially as it would, in the opinion of one of the Advocates General, have required sixty years to quiet the titles. The question thus fell into complete abeyance, till Mr. Smout was appointed to officiate as Solicitor for the Company, when he took up the question with a resolute determination to bring these difficulties to a termination, and pave the way for the completion of these improvements. It was, we believe, mainly owing to his exertions, that the matter was brought under the consideration of the Legislative Council, by whom the draft of the Act which was read on the 22d of August last, was promulgated. It was copied from the Act 5th and 6th Viet. Chap. 29 which established the Pentonville Penitentiary. That Act provided that the *jury* which should try any proceedings brought for the recovery of the possession of any of the lands should ascertain the value of them. But by a singular inadvertence, which the *Optimist* has not failed to point out, this clause has been inserted without alteration, although Juries have never been allowed in civil suits in the Supreme Court. This anomaly will, of course, be corrected, when the law comes to be passed. As to the right of ownership to these alluvial lands, although parties possessed of houses on the Strand have sometimes laid claim to them, there can be no doubt whatsoever, that they belong exclusively to Government. They are an accretion to the Strand road, which was purchased by Government from the proprietors, and is therefore the exclusive property of Government. It is not to be apprehended that any legal difficulties can arise, regarding the rights of the state to the land which has thus been added to its own ground.

We may, therefore, indulge a hope that at no distant period, the appearance of the river bank, which at present is the opprobrium of the City of Palaces will be materially improved. When the proposed arrangement is complete, we hope that wealthy natives, longing for immortality, will be invited to expend their money in the construction of spacious and noble ghats, by the promise of a column or an arch to commemorate their liberality. It will not, we are certain, be necessary for Government to appropriate any public funds for this object; the wealthy natives will be but too happy to enjoy an opportunity of acquiring renown and perpetuat-

ing their names, nor do we see any great enormity in turning the national passion for fame to the benefit of the public. The intermediate space should be laid out in walks, interspersed with shrubs and seats, for the morning and evening recreation of the native part of the population, and thus made conducive not only to the beauty but to the health of the town.

THE NEW POLICE ACT.—We publish a letter from a valued correspondent, who has assumed the old name of *Lurifer*, on the new Act, which he condemns without any qualification. We cannot bring ourselves to concur with him in thinking that it "solves doubts which never had any practical existence," or "long been in vogue." The doubts which it proposes to remove, have proved a most serious obstacle to the conviction of Dacoits, on the evidence of informers, and we think that if he had an opportunity of perusing the depositions which have been taken of accomplices, and of comparing their independent statements with the local records of the dacoities they were engaged in, his own suspicions of the worthless character of these confessions, would be at once removed. If, under the operation of this Act, three or four hundred of the most active and notorious of these dacoits could be transferred to Singapore to keep the coast clean, an immediate stop would, we are confident, be put to the prevalence of this crime in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. As regards the Village watchmen, we have written so fully on the subject in our remarks on a recent article of the *Englishman*, that we need not now recur to the subject. Our remarks were not before our correspondent when his letter was written, and we are not without hope that they will contribute in some measure to modify his views.

He supposes that he may be expected to suggest some means better calculated to attain the end, and he proposes the appointment of a Committee to take evidence on the subject of the Dacoities in lower Bengal, and to devise the best remedy for the present disastrous state of things. He proposes to appoint Mr. W. H. Elliott, and Dr. Samuells, as members of the Committee, and to associate with them two or three native landholders of education and influence, and also some one acquainted with the working of the detective police of London and Paris, and he is also anxious that Mr. Seton Karr should be appointed Secretary of the Committee. Such a Committee, he says, would speedily collect as a basis for reform, such an array of facts as would excite sympathy and pity in the most sturdy hearted, and have an awkward aspect, "if they are left to be elicited by a Parliamentary Committee two years hence." We most cordially second the proposal of our Correspondent for the appointment of a Mofussil Police Committee. We know that it is earnestly desired by the great body of the native gentry and landholders, and that Lord Dalhousie could not adopt a more popular, or wiser, or more useful measure than to make this one addition to the various Committees of Enquiry which he has appointed, and which constitute the distinguishing feature of his administration. If the general complaints of the inefficiency of the Calcutta Police were deemed of such importance, as to lead to the appointment of a Committee of investigation, how much more imperative is the necessity of appointing a similar Committee to examine into the state of the Police, in the suburban districts, when it is thus described by our correspondent:

"I happen to know, from travel and personal experi-

ence, something of the condition of the people in the districts round Calcutta, and I affirm that not one-twentieth part of the real distress, with respect to the prevalence of dacoity, is known to the Legislature. I could tell you of large tracts of country where, in the "dark land" of the moon, as it is called, no such a cry, his land on his pillow without trembling; where, if a chance about is raised or torch lighted at night, the miserable rudder-haunted villages fly from their houses, or hide themselves where they can, till the alarm is over; where the chance advent of a "Sahib" on a shooting excursion with a tent and a gun, is hailed as a blessed presence; where the "Landlord" of a village, or the "Rajah" and his dependants, are not at all safe."

The author of these assertions is perfectly and intimately acquainted with the subject on which he writes. He is neither patriot nor demagogue; and the perfect accuracy of all these statements we are prepared most fully to corroborate, and we feel certain that there is not a Magistrate, or a landholder, or a ryot, in the districts which are the scene of dacoities, who would hesitate to vouch for their truth.

SUPERINTENDING SURGEONS AND DIVISIONAL COMMANDERS.—The Bombay papers announce that the Court of Directors have recently caused a Superintending Surgeon and Surgeon to change places at that Presidency, under the following circumstances. A vacancy having occurred in the office of Superintending Surgeon, the local Government immediately appointed the Senior Surgeon in the country to fill it. It happened that the Senior Surgeon on the list was at the time absent in England, and on his return to India, claimed the promotion as a matter of right. The question was referred to Lordenall Street, and the Court ordered him to be placed among the Superintending Surgeons, and the gentleman who had been appointed during his absence to fall back to the junior grade. This is certainly to maintain the principle of seniority at a very high pitch, but it strikes us as inconsistent with the rules ordained by the Hon. Court for this Presidency in reference to the Medical Service, and contrary to the analogy of appointments in the Military department. The Court have repeatedly directed the Bengal Government to consider the posts in the Medical Service, not in the light of seniority appointments, but as both open to officers of merit in the inferior grades. They have expressed their anxious desire, that the office of Superintending Surgeon should be regarded as the reward of superior qualifications among the Surgeons. It is quite true that these orders, though reiterated, have remained a dead letter; and that the strict rule of seniority has in no instance been violated. When they were last promulgated, a medical friend high in the service assured us that they never could or would be acted upon; that they attempt to break the line of seniority succession would bring such a tempest about the ears of the public authorities, as would make them but too happy to revert to the old course; and that it would be easier and safer to swallow the whole of the Punjab than to make a Surgeon a Superintending Surgeon out of his turn. He has proved a true prophet; we have swallowed the whole of the Punjab, without feeling it too strong for our powers of digestion, but the Government has not yet ventured to promote the most meritorious Surgeon over the head of the most incapable. Still, there are the orders of the Court of Directors to the Government of Bengal, directing that these superior officers shall be filled on the principle of selection and not of seniority, and it does, therefore, appear somewhat inconsistent, at the same time, to maintain the principle of Seniority in so stringent a form at another Presidency.

















2	Lobster Meat, in 1-pints, ... ..	0
2	Herrings 1/2 lb. Sardines, ... ..	2
2	Herrings 1/2 lb. Anchovies, ... ..	2
2	Red Herrings, smoked in 2 dozen tins, ... ..	2
2	Mock Turtle Soup, in 2-lb. tins, ... ..	1
2	Carrots, in 1 and 2-lb. tins, ... .. 12 annas and	1
	<i>From Hills &amp; Co.</i>	
	Fresh Oysters, in pints and 1-pints, 1-4 and ... ..	0
	<i>From W. S. Hale.</i>	
	Real Sperm Candles (at cost price) per lb. ... ..	1
	Patent Wax Moons or Carriage and Buggy Lights, ... ..	1









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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA ROMANY.  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 24th of the ensuing month of October for the departure of the first steamer therefrom, with a Mail for India—Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the earliest date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be taken by the conveyance to that first set of the Overland Packet will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 10th. Inst.

J. R. BURLAND BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, the 24th Sept., 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donation:—  
From \* \* \* Co's. Rs. 10 to the Belurue Endowment Fund.

OVERLAND SUMMARY.—The Express from Bombay with the Mail of the 7th August, arrived in Calcutta at four o'clock, on Wednesday, the 10th instant, after a passage of thirty-three days and sixteen hours, which would have been reduced to thirty-two days, had the Express crossed the country with its usual rapidity. Although the news is almost devoid of interest, and has doubtless been for some days in the hands of the majority of our readers, our usual summary may still be expected. Parliament was to be prorogued by the Queen in person on the 8th August, and the scene was expected to be unusually splendid, from the number of foreigners in London. The Queen's speech will doubtless be an amusing document, as the session has been remarkable only for having produced a greater amount of useless talking, than any previous one since the passing of the Reform Bill, while the shipwrecked Ministry have been saved, as French has it, only by the steamers of the Exhibition. In anticipation of the close of the session, several bills have been withdrawn or postponed, the most important of these being the Registration of Assurances Bill, or the great and important Bill for registering landed property, which was mentioned in the Queen's speech at the opening of the session, and which was opposed only by the country attorneys, who dread a diminution of their business. It has been postponed till next session, when more urgent business will probably drive it out of sight altogether. The Ecclesiastical Titles Bill has been passed under a protest from certain French, and it remains to be seen whether the Roman Catholic Bishops will carry it into the Courts of Law before they yield, or whether they will give way at once, as some of the Irish prelates are already said to have done. We should think at least one great trial will be allowed to take place, before the titles are relinquished. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey has been elected for Limerick, Mr. Russell, his opponent, and one of the greatest shipowners in Ireland, having been compelled by the priests to withdraw from the contest. Lord Arundel's resignation of his former seat, was not, it is said, owing to any expression of opinion on the part of the Pope, but to his father's displeasure at his conduct in opposing the Titles Bill. His conduct at Limerick in throwing himself on his knees in the mud before the Bishop, in the presence of the people, has been severely censured. The Bill for simplifying and amending the Law of Patents, which is believed will greatly benefit the manufacturers, has passed the second reading in the Lower House. At

present, a poor man, who has worked out an invention, perhaps with the labour of a life, has no hope whatever of obtaining a patent, and must either allow his invention to perish, or sell it to some capitalist for an insignificant sum. The evil has been particularly felt in the designs for cotton prints, which are incessantly pirated, and in machinery, where many improvements have been made by artisans, to whom the Three Hundred and odd pounds required for a patent is an insurmountable obstacle. An address to the Queen to retain the Crystal Palace until May 1852, has been carried in the House of Commons by a small majority, and it is probable that the building will be repaired till that period, long before which time the public will have made up its mind to retain it. The only other subject of political interest is the fact that notices of action have been served on Alderman Salomons for voting in the House of Commons. At a great meeting of the friends of the Jews, held on the 24th August, Mr. Salomons said that he had rendered himself liable to a fine of £500, and to be pronounced a "Popish recusant convict," which is equivalent to a sentence of outlawry. The actions will, it is hoped, be prosecuted to a final issue. Mr. Salomons has taken the whole of the oath, with the exception of the words "on the true faith of a Christian." Mr. Bichard and many others maintain that these words belong to the form, and not to the substance of the oath; and a recent Act of Parliament ordains, that every oath shall be taken in the form most binding on the conscience. If the Courts decide that Salomons has taken the oath to all intents and purposes, will he be allowed to take his seat?—Will the House of Commons, and above all, will the House of Lords allow the Civil Courts to override their votes, and to send a member to the Lower House, whom they have excluded?

The Royal Commissioners of the Exhibition, and the Corporation of London, accepted an invitation from the municipality of Paris, and the party, upwards of one thousand in number, thronged over to the French Capital. As usual with the Corporation, the affair was mismanaged, and the Aldermen found themselves before the Hotel de Ville without their robes, or chains, or tickets. They were, however, delighted with their reception, and astounded at the magnificence of the Hotel de Ville, a strong contrast to Guildhall. The only further contempt on the occasion originated in the excessive popularity of the Lord Mayor, for whose convenience the French Authorities kept every body waiting, to the great disgust of his brother Aldermen.

Two reports of Committees of the House of Commons are of some importance to Indian residents. The first upon Steam Navigation we have taken up in another column; the second affects chiefly newspaper readers and proprietors. The Committee of Inquiry into the operation of the Newspaper Stamp Act, have reported strongly against the retention of the stamp, except as a means of postal communication, but have suggested that a law of copyright for a short period should be extended to newspapers, in order to protect them from the piracy of their news by the cheap prints which would spring up when the tax was removed. Among other singular facts brought out by the

enquiry was a statement by the manager of the *Times* that they were compelled to take measures to limit their circulation.

The Continental news is of no interest whatever. The whole of the North of Italy, is garrisoned by Austrian troops, and every fort, post, and stronghold, is in her possession. Meanwhile, the finances of the Empire are embarrassed, and a loan for Eighty millions of florins—Eight millions sterling—has been concluded between Rothschild and certain Viennese Bankers.

THE MORTUARY BANKS AND THE MILITARY COURTS OF REQUESTS.—The following most important Order has just been issued by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief:—  
Circular, No. 1001.

"Adjutant-General's Office, Horse Guards, St. James's, 4th September, 1851.  
Sir,—The Commander-in-Chief having reason to believe that European Courts of Request, generally, are under the erroneous impression that they are restricted in their awards to the half of an Officer's pay; and also that these tribunals, previously to passing decrees against Officers sued before them, are accustomed to take into consideration engagements for the payment of monthly instalments to Banks which such Officers may have entered into; I am directed to transmit the following information, and for the future guidance of European Courts of Request, and within your command, the accompanying extract from an order of the Commander-in-Chief, in relation to the subject of the above-mentioned Courts of Request. You are directed to inform you will be good enough to cause the same to be read to be paid by these Courts to the extent of the sum contained.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient servant,  
H. T. TUCKER, Lieut.-Colonel,  
Adjutant-General of the Army.

TO THE OFFICERS COMMANDING THE REGIMENT.  
Extract from Memorandum by the

JURIS ADVOCATE GENERAL.  
No. 534, of the 12th October 1850.

Nothing can be clearer than these two points: First, that the whole of an Officer's pay, commencing in any month, is available to satisfy decrees of Courts of Request.

Secondly, that an Officer's having given orders on his pay for instalments in favor of a Bank, presents no bar to the decrees of Courts of Request being satisfied. By paying to him he is understood to have given up his pay and a balance, after deducting the stoppage made by the Bank, to the service of the Military and Orphan Funds, and to the use of the Bank for the purpose of raising the Bank. But the whole of such pay is available to be appropriated to satisfy decrees of Courts of Request, notwithstanding any other disposition of it, or any part of it, which an Officer may have made. These decrees are enforceable and push aside any orders on his pay which an officer may have previously given. It is therefore unjust to put off the liquidation of the proved demands of creditors, in order to give a preference to payment to a Bank.

(True Extract.)  
H. T. TUCKER, Lieut.-Colonel,  
Adjutant-General of the Army."

It is scarcely possible that this order should not seriously affect the interests of the Mortuary Banks. The Army is indebted to those institutions, as is generally supposed, to the extent of nearly a Million Sterling. In every case of accommodation, the debtor makes an assignment on his pay, which has hitherto been punctually deducted. The Courts of Requests have distinctly recognized the existence of these obligations, and in awarding retrocessions from the pay of Officers, who have been brought up before them, have considered the sum at their disposal to consist of the pay and allowances of the officer after the Bank instalment had been deducted. The new Order states, that the Court of Requests has control over the whole of the pay of an officer, notwithstanding any hypothecation he may have made of it to any one, and that they are at liberty to award the



withstanding length of service—which in many cases can only be taken to mean the benefit of seniority—an officer does not enjoy the confidence of Government, it may refuse to endow him with the responsibilities and the emoluments of the Brigadiership. But we are not so certain that these Orders can be deemed applicable, except in their spirit, to Divisional commands. It is possible that the Vice President in Council may have intended to include such commands under the term "any extra-regimental command of trust and importance," but a shade of doubt is cast over this exposition by the dispatch of the Court of Directors, when they use the expression, "this complaint, even if just in reference to General Officers," which would almost seem to imply that General Officers are excluded to these commands on the ground of seniority, and that a complaint of superintendence may be deemed just. At all events, during the twenty-four years which have elapsed since the Orders were passed, we have seen more than one donkey placed in the command of a Division, who never could have been selected for a without creating the painful conviction that those at the head of the army must have been of the same genus with himself, and who cannot therefore have got to the top of the ladder except by the progress of seniority. We must therefore again throw ourselves on the indulgence of our Military friends, and ask them for a little farther enlightenment on the subject of Divisional commands and General Officers.

**STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH INDIA.**—The Mail of the 7th August brings us a Parliamentary document, which is likely to exercise considerable influence upon any future settlement of the question of Steam Navigation in the East. We allude to the second report of the Select Committee on Steam Communication with Australia, which is devoted entirely to the consideration of the best means of securing a rapid and constant communication between England, India, and China. The report is neither elaborate nor of composition, nor elaborate in detail, but a thoroughly practical, business-like document, and places in the clearest light the position of the communication, the improvements which the Committee believe to be most desirably necessary, and the manner in which they may in their opinion be most easily accomplished. Although we have often written upon the subject, figures so easily slip away from the memory, that it may not be invidious to borrow from the report a slight sketch of the communication as it exists at present. The Mail which leaves England on the 7th of every month, passes through France, and is conveyed from Marseilles to Alexandria by Steamers in Her Majesty's service, and after passing through Egypt is conveyed by the H. C.'s Steamers from Suez to Bombay. For this service, the East India Company receive £50,000 a year, but they pay for the transit of the Mails across Egypt, which must diminish in some degree the value of the grant they receive. There is besides the expense of transiting from London to Alexandria, of which no estimate has ever yet been exhibited. The second Mail leaves England on the 20th of each month, in the steamers of the P. and O. Company, and, after taking up the express Mail of the 24th at Malta, passes on to Alexandria, and is brought by the vessels of the same Company from Suez to Ceylon, Malacca, and Calcutta. The Mails for China are shifted at Galle into smaller vessels, still belonging to the same Company, and are carried to Hong-Kong. For these services, the Peninsular and Oriental Company receive £118,000 a year,

of which £70,000 are contributed by the East India Company.

Such is the present condition of the communication, which costs the two Governments on the whole, and for both lines, £213,000, exclusive of the expense of conveying the first Mail of the month between London and Alexandria. Of the mode in which the P. and O. Company have conducted their portion of it, the Committee, after summing up the evidence on both sides, observe—

"Although the vessels on this line were considered of the first-class when originally constructed, yet the rapid improvement which has taken place in machinery renders them now below the standard which has been reached on the North American line. Witnesses have stated that there has been some irregularity in the arrival of the mails at Calcutta by this line, and statements have been made to the same effect by the commercial houses at Calcutta. The rate of fares charged by the company for the most for the passage of freight, the H. C. vessels, and the P. and O. vessels, is a subject of great importance, and one which has been the subject of much complaint before your committee. On the other hand, evidence has been brought forward to speak to the attention the passengers have received on board the vessels belonging to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company, while some witnesses think that it is not fair to acknowledge the enterprising spirit which has been displayed by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company in the general management of the communication which they have now conducted for some years, they are disappointed that the English and Indian public have not exercised a more judicious selection of the services connected with the general of the communication, and have been prejudicially before the public, the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company had done little towards introducing into their line those great and important improvements in steam navigation. Of late, however, some of these vessels have undergone considerable improvement, and have been ordered to maintain a speed much in excess of the contract rate."

Considering the irritation which our remarks upon this topic have produced among certain parties in London, and the accusations of "unprincipled calumnies" which we know have been brought against our statements, it is not a little amusing to find them repeated almost verbatim by grave authorities in a Parliamentary report, and to find that the same facts are stated in a different manner by the same authorities.

The Report then passes on to the more immediate and interesting question, of the best method of providing for these improvements which have been rendered necessary by the progress of the age. Upon this point, the Committee are explicit and decisive. They consider that the interests both of India and of China, require a communication once a fortnight, and that this communication, with the aid of a moderate grant for the carriage of the Mails, would be remunerative. They base the latter portion of this opinion upon the great effect of steam communication in developing trade, upon the desire shown by the Peninsular and Oriental Company to increase the frequency of communication, and upon an offer then before them, for the performance of similar service for about half the amount paid to the Peninsular and Oriental Company. They entertain a strong belief, that the more valuable articles of merchandise, such as Opium, Silk, and Spices, will, if the freight be moderate, prove exceedingly profitable, and they might have added bullion, which has been shipped from time to time to a considerable extent on board these vessels. They consider also, that in all future tenders, a speed considerably greater than the present standard should be insisted upon, and that the penalties for failure in this respect should be such as might be rigidly enforced, when not satisfactorily accounted for. They do not, however, believe, that the Govern-

ment can interfere with the private arrangements of the Company, so far as to fix a maximum rate of fares, but observe that the only mode in which the "full advantages" of the line, in other words, low fares, can be secured to the public, is by "the establishment of a whole competition." This leads them to speak of the Eastern Steam Navigation Company, which they say, intends to transmit the Mails by the Trieste route, in connection with the Austrian Lloyd's, by which the political advantage of having two lines open across Europe will be secured. The Governments interested in the Trieste line have also shown themselves prepared to enter into negotiations for the transmission of the Mails. So strongly does this idea of the benefits of competition strike the Committee, that at the close of their report, they recur to the subject, in the following strong terms:—"Your committee cannot close this report without stating their conviction that any arrangement which is not intended to provide an exclusive traffic on the Indian lines in the hands of one company is open to serious objection, and, in the recommendations which they have suggested for the consideration of the Government, they wish to lay down the principle, that the only security to the public for the full advantage of these communications must consist in open and fair competition. On the Government must rest the responsibility of carrying out that principle with honesty and fairness to the public, and it can only be effected by ample notice and full particulars of the terms and conditions required being given, so as to enable all parties to enter the field who may be desirous of tendering for the service."

This, we are carrying out those proposals in the latter end of 1852, as the present contract of the P. and O. Company terminates in December of that year, but the Committee suggest that as no new Company would require at least eighteen months for completing its preparations, competition should be invited at once.

Such is a brief analysis of this report, which appears to us likely to be productive of great benefit both to India and England, unless it be smothered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The sum of their advice is this, that India and the East should enjoy a communication with England, once a fortnight, and that it should be entrusted to two separate Companies, namely, to the Peninsular and Oriental, and the Eastern Steam Navigation.

**DRAFT OF AN ACT TO REGULATE THE MANUFACTURE OF SALTPEETRE.**—More than five years ago, a correspondent of this journal, writing from the North-West Provinces, pointed out the quantity of Salt which was manufactured at the little Saltpetre works scattered all over the country, and observed that this coarse Salt was given by the natives to their horses. Since that time, the practice of making saltpetre has under cover of the manufacture of Saltpetre, been carried to such an extent, that it has at length been found absolutely necessary for the preservation of the Salt Revenue to bring these establishments under a strict and perpetual surveillance, and this is the design of the present Draft. To its general object and principle, we have no objection to offer. We have long since expressed our firm belief that no other tax can be made to produce the same amount of revenue in a form so little burdensome to the people, and it is equally evident, that if the monopoly is maintained, it must be better both for the revenue and the people, to make it complete, than to connive at an endless system

of smuggling. We cannot say, however, that we think the present Act the best that could be framed for this purpose, as it appears to interfere unnecessarily both with the process of the Saltpetre manufacture, and the extent to which any individual proprietor may wish to carry it. We write upon the subject with much diffidence, as we are not sufficiently acquainted with the details of the processes employed, or the profits of the trade, to say how far they will bear the perpetual interference of the exciseman, but, with that reservation, we are inclined to believe the Act, if passed into a law, will either absolutely prohibit the manufacture except on account of Government, or throw it into the hands of two or three capitalists who can afford to bribe every native official about them. After this Act has become law, the manufacturer on his own account, will not only be liable to the interference of the Deputy Collector at every stage of his manufacture, but will be exposed to ruin at any moment by the treachery of a native subordinate. He will be obliged, in the first place, to petition and pay for a license,—the price varying according to the productiveness of his works—or, if he will restrict himself to the "manufacture of saltpetre from earth or brine, containing not more muriate of soda than thirty-five parts in one hundred parts of the saline substance," he may demand a license as of right. In the application for this document, which is to be granted by the Deputy Collector or other person appointed for the purpose, he must specify the locality of his works, the number and size of his boilers and filters, the greatest number of workmen employed, and other particulars, and any "wiful misrepresentation or false statement" will cause his license to be immediately annulled. Such, at least, is the provision of Clause XII., but Clause XV. is more merciful, and only subjects the manufacturer to a penalty of five hundred rupees, and the loss of his license on a second offence. Every increase in the business, every additional filter, every new vat, and every fresh workman above the maximum, will require a new license. With respect to the workmen, any large manufacturer must be exposed to ruin, unless he adopts a subterfuge. A hostile Zemindar might at any moment bribe the native manager to increase the complement of workmen in his employer's absence, port the circumstance to the Deputy Collector, and close the works.

The provision with respect to the Zemindars, seems also objectionable, unless it is intended absolutely to abolish private manufactories. The Twenty-second clause provides:—

"XXII. Every zemindar or other proprietor of land, on which any works for the manufacture or refinery of Salt or Saltpetre shall be established, shall be liable, in such such zemindar or other proprietor, or his manager or agent, shall not have received notice as aforesaid, shall forthwith give information thereof to the Collector or Deputy Collector of Customs or Land Revenue; and in default of giving such information during one calendar month from the establishment of such works, or during which they are continued without license, or after the license for them has been annulled, shall be liable, on conviction before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees for each offence."

No Zemindar at a distance will allow himself to be placed at the mercy of his Gomastah in this way, and he can of course only prevent it, by determining to remove the works altogether. The only chance for the saltpetre manufacturer will be, either to become his own Zemindar, or to fix his works in a village held by the people, where there is neither landlord nor manager, and where, consequently, no one is bound to report. On the whole, unless the Act is intended to place a complete monopoly of

the manufacture in the hands of Government, it appears to be too stringent, and we are inclined to think that the required security with respect to salt might more easily be obtained, by an absolute prohibition of the manufacture of alimentary salt in connection with saltpetre works.

THE LAND SETTLEMENT IN THE NORTH WEST PROVINCES—THEIR RESULT—COST OF SURVEY, AND SETTLEMENTS.—It is a remarkable, but by no means a singular fact, that the subjects which are most prominently brought under public discussion, and to which public attention is more particularly directed, both by journalists and historians, are not those great questions of public policy in which the interests of millions, born and unborn, are involved, but the minor questions in which the passions of the moment are excited. We in India are apt to complain that a vestry squabble in a parish near London, will occupy more of the time of the legislature than the most momentous interests of this empire. Yet, we are constantly exhibiting instances of this anomaly in this country. While the large measures of Government which are calculated to affect the present and future welfare of whole provinces, and to the maturity of which the ablest minds in the Government have been earnestly and conscientiously directed, scarcely command more than a passing notice, any illegality, or even irregularities which may be discovered in the conduct of individual officers, are made the subject of continued, earnest, and often ferocious comment. These reflections have been suggested by the perusal of two articles in the last number, that is the Tenth, of the Selections from the public Correspondence of the North West Provinces, relative to the settlement of the land revenue in them. This measure, although one of the greatest, the wisest, and the most successful upon which the Government of British India has ever been employed, and although it involves a permanent revenue of four millions sterling a year, and the dearest interests of a population greater than that of England, Scotland, and Wales, has scarcely been noticed by those who discuss or chronicle the affairs of India. Thornton, in his History of India, has not thought it of sufficient importance so much as to notice the adoption of these arrangements in 1833, which have resulted in completing a settlement, by which a new impulse of improvement has been given to an agricultural population of many millions. Some excuse may possibly be discovered for him in the fact, that this great measure was framed by Lord William Bentinck, and that in his annals of the administration of that illustrious statesman, his chief object was to find as much food for detraction as possible; but a stronger reason may possibly be found in the narrowness of Mr. Thornton's views, and his inability to appreciate the relative importance of Indian transactions.—While he has given no fewer than ten pages to the trumpery emets of Tecumseh in 1833, which the very appearance of regular troops extinguished, he has left the settlement of the North West Provinces unnoticed.

To some it may not be superfluous to state, that the great bulk of the districts which now form the North West Provinces, came to us by conquest or cession during the brilliant reign of Lord Wellesley, and that till the establishment of the Agra Presidency, they were designated the Ceded and Conquered Provinces. At that time, namely at the beginning of the present century, when the permanent settlement of Lord Corn-

wallis in Bengal and Behar was not understood, and the admission of it had not yet been developed, and its monstrous evils had not yet been developed, Lord Wellesley was led to express his admiration of it, although it has done more to debasement and impoverish the agricultural population of Bengal than any measure of our administration. When the question of forming a settlement of the land revenue for the newly acquired provinces came up for consideration, Lord Wellesley announced his determination to conclude a settlement first for three years, then for three years more, and then for four years, and at the end of the tenth year, to make the settlement permanent. But the promise of this permanent settlement was granted, in Lord Wellesley's own peculiar style, without the insertion of the clause, "if approved of by the Court of Directors." The Directors, on hearing of this precipitate measure, expressed their unqualified disapproval of any settlement which should tie up their hands for ever, as in the case of Bengal and Behar, and subsequently ordered the promise to be retracted by the same legal formalities by which it had been given, and a quinquennial settlement to be made from time to time. Under the operation of this system of short settlements, the landholders were deprived of every inducement to improve their estates, and the agriculture of the new provinces, gradually fell off, and, with it, the revenues. It was felt that no settlement could be made for a longer period, before the area, and the productiveness of each estate, together with various other particulars, had been ascertained, and Mr. Holt Mackenzie accordingly drew up the celebrated Regulation VII. of 1822, one of the most elaborate and complicated Acts in our statute book. But partly from the too great variety of details which it required, and partly from the inefficiency of the revenue officers, not to mention the distance of the Board of Revenue in Calcutta, the system broke down when it came to be worked. At the end of ten years, it was found that sixty more years would be required to complete it.

Lord William Bentinck now determined to grapple with this great question. His first step was to establish a separate Board of Revenue for the North West Provinces; and then to appoint Revenue Commissioners over a circle of districts. He subsequently held a convocation of the most experienced revenue officers at Allahabad, in 1833, at which all the necessary arrangements were made for expediting the local enquiries, and fixing the settlement of the revenue upon a sound and equitable basis. This meeting terminated in the enactment of Regulation IX. of that year. At the same time, he placed Mr. Robert Mordaunt Bird, in the Board, and entrusted to him the guidance and superintendence of these grand and important operations. Mr. Bird is thus described by one intimately acquainted with him: "A mind capable of dealing equally with minute details and general principles; stores of information collected by unusual powers of memory and observation; cheerful spirits and unflinching health; together with a robust energy, the vigor animi, ingentibus negotiis par; those were his qualifications for the great work which was before him. On that work he impressed his own stamp, and gave it all its form and feature." The result was that in eight years after the meeting at Allahabad in 1833, and the enactment of that Regulation, Mr. Bird was enabled to report to Government, that the settlement, with some immaterial exceptions, was complete; and it was the most complete, and the most satisfactory settlement,



in regard both to the interests of the state and of its subjects, which had ever been concluded in India.

It is in reference to this great measure, that the selections from the Public Correspondence give us two documents of considerable importance. The first refers to the expenses incurred in the Survey and Settlement of the North West Provinces. They amounted in the aggregate to Rs. 57,27,000, or a little above half a million sterling. The annual rental of the lands on which this sum was expended was in 1816-47 Rs. 8,63,12,000, or at the rate of about 16 per cent. on the revenue of a single year. And when it is considered, that this work included 71,065 square statute miles, and forty-four millions of acres, and that every patch was measured, and the quality of the soil, and the equitable rate of revenue, and the proprietary right were ascertained and recorded, it will be readily admitted that no work of equal magnitude and importance has ever been completed for so small a comparative sum. The distribution of this amount between the two items stands thus:

Survey charges, .....	Rs. 23,55,555
Settlement charges, .....	30,70,011—54,27,510
The other document gives us the financial result of the revision of the settlement; from which we find that the annual average revenue derived from these districts in the five years preceding the Settlement, was ...	Rs. 3,40,81,000
In the five years after the Settlement, ... ..	3,63,12,000

Total increase, ... .. Rs. 12,81,000  
The increase was certainly not great; it fell short of four per cent., but the revenue was more justly and more equitably distributed. If the revenue of Goruckpore was raised from about 9 lakhs to 20 lakhs, that of Agra was reduced by nearly five lakhs, and above all, the exorbitant demand which had brought the fertile province of Bundelkand to the verge of ruin, was reduced by nearly seven lakhs and a half of Rupees. That most unfortunate and crushing settlement, the opprobrium of our administration, was the work of Mr. Scott Waring—whose name "Waris Sahib" is still pronounced with a shudder throughout the province, and is used like that of the great Ogre by mothers when they want to frighten their children.—Had the settlement in Bengal, instead of being so preposterously fixed "for ever" at a time when we knew nothing of the area or resources of the estates, and when one-third of the country was uncultivated, been limited to half a century, we should long ere this have had a revised and equitable settlement like that of the North West Provinces.

We are not much in the habit of allowing cases of individual hardship to be brought forward in our columns, but in the present instance, an authenticated report of a grievance, occasioned by a recent decision in the Magistrate's Court at Purneah, has been sent us, which we have thought it advisable to publish, leaving the authenticity of the facts to rest on the authority of our correspondents.

"There is a piece of land, measuring, say 50 or 60 bighas, which has been in my possession for the last fourteen years and upwards, partly cultivated with my own ploughs, and partly by ryots who cultivated on the Coletty principle, viz. by paying me rents—secured by a potish and yearly furrows, but all which documents were unfortunately lost in the conflagration of my bungalow three years ago. During my absence in Calcutta last cold weather, the house of the village in which the above lands are situated, was taken by a notorious character, with a large gang of Lattials, who came down and beat my

people very severely, and carried off all the ploughs and bullocks, &c. This matter being brought to the notice of the Magistrate, Mr. Campbell, the offending party's servants were fined eighty Rupees, and bound down in heavy personal recognisances to keep the peace. The case for possession came then to be tried by Act IV. of 1840, before the Magistrate, but he could not come to any satisfactory decision thereon, because I could not produce any documents, the whole having been burnt as already stated, but I proved by my possession the fact of possession for fourteen years. They also stated, that I held about one thousand bighas of land in the village alluded to. Mr. Campbell's decision was perhaps as best he could come to, under the circumstances, and in recording his decision, he declared that I should endeavor to search for papers, as some might have been saved from the fire. The other party appealed against this decision to the Judge, who ordered the Magistrate to re-investigate the case. This task fell to the lot of a new Magistrate, Mr. Russell, of short standing in the service, and who succeeded Mr. Campbell. In the same time, after a laborious search, I discovered a few papers saved from the fire, proving all that was required, one of them bearing the Putwary's signature, although that person had solemnly affirmed in Court, that I never held possession of the land in question. Those documents were deposited with Mr. Russell, as also receipts from a Munsiff's Court for eleven or twelve Acre I had purchased at an auction held there in satisfaction of Debts, thus making in round numbers about a thousand bighas, which my witnesses deposed to. I also filed a petition with a list of fresh witnesses, whom I desired to be called up on the new trial. It was received, but not acted upon as Mr. Russell would admit no more witnesses, but called up the case and decided it against me merely upon a perusal of the proceedings of the first trial! This I deem a very hard case, and totally at variance with the provisions of Act IV. of 1840, which enacts that if a person happens to hold land on any title for the space of 30 days, he cannot be dispossessed by this summary Law. The most extraordinary fact connected with this decision is, that the case as it originally stood was for fifty or sixty bighas—the decision against me is for all the thousand bighas. The original bullocks advertised to in the first part of my letter, after much and active search, seven of them were discovered in the month of May last, at a native Commissioner's Cutcherry, under attachment according to Regulation V. of 1812. Caroo Lal Tiakoor, whom I have already alluded to, being apprehensive, I suppose, that he would be taken up for *Piracy*, or something like it, adopted this method of trying to keep himself clear from the fangs of the Law. After working those bullocks in his ploughs for four months, he had then attached in the name of one of his creaturers for rent, and sent them to the Native Commissioner for final disposal. All this was brought to the notice of the Magistrate—the cattle were proved to be mine, and indeed ordered to be restored to me which was done; but the other party received no punishment for his outrageous conduct."

ESSAY ON VEDANTISM.—We are glad to perceive from the annexed communication, that the prize of Rs. 300 offered by the Christian Tract and Book Society for the best Essay on Vedantism, has been awarded to the Rev. J. Mullens. The subject is one of the highest importance, and one which Mr. Mullens has studied deeply and carefully. The Essay will be printed shortly.

PRIZE ESSAY ON VEDANTISM.

To the Editor of the Friend of India.

DEAR SIR, As you kindly published some months ago, a notice issued by the Christian Tract and Book Society, offering a Prize of Rs. 300 for the best Essay on Vedantism, I write to inform you, and (if permission) your readers also, that the Essay to which the Prize has been awarded by the Adjudicators, is, being decidedly the best of those submitted to them, and altogether worthy of the Prize, written by the Rev. J. Mullens, Missionary of the London Society's Mission, at Calcutta.

This Essay will, I hope, soon be published.

The other Essays received are in my hands, and I shall be happy to return them to the respective writers on their

applications. I beg to forward to you copies of three Essays on Caste, lately published by the same Society, and remain

Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
S. B. B. B.  
Secy. Cal. Tract Society.

September 18, 1851.

LIFE OF MOHAMMED. By A. Sprenger, M. D.—Dr. Sprenger, the Principal of the Calcutta Madrasah, and one of the first Arabic Scholars in India, has been for some time engaged in preparing a "Life of Mohammed" from sources more authentic than those which have hitherto been relied upon by his biographers. The work opens with a sketch of the situation of Arabia before the birth of Mohammed, then explains the gradual evolution of purer systems of belief, in the minds of certain of the educated Arabs, and ultimately brings the history of Mohammed himself down to the era of the Hijrah, or, according to the orthography adopted by Dr. Sprenger, the Hīrah, that is Friday, the 10th July, A. D. 622. In the centre of the first part is inserted a literary dissertation, which would have been more in place as an introduction, upon the character and trustworthiness of the Mohammedan historians. As Dr. Sprenger evidently attaches high importance to this account, and with great justice, he must endeavor to give a sketch of his argument. With respect to the more prominent events of Mohammed's manhood, there can, of course, be little difficulty, though even in this there is some confusion, but the materials for a biography properly so called, particularly a biography of his ideas,—if we may be allowed the expression—are very limited, and have been so overloaded with legends, that it is scarcely possible to consider any portion absolutely trustworthy. The record of Mohammed's own time relating to himself, are extremely few, and consist chiefly of a few sentences in the Koran which can only be understood through the medium of tradition, and certain "documents and treatises of Mohammed," collected in the time of Haroun al Rashid. The events of the latter part of Mohammed's life, composed by Histon of Medina, an early convert, are still in existence, and some of the "companions" also committed his sayings to paper during his life time. These "companions" were accustomed to communicate these sayings, and some traditions, to pupils or "Talees" and these again composed the stories and committed them to writing. It will easily be seen, that even these authorities, superior as they are to the majority of those consulted by Dr. Sprenger's predecessors, may to a certain extent be untrustworthy. The first regular biography of Mohammed, according to Dr. Sprenger, was that of Ibn Ishak, who died 151 years after the Hijrah, and who must have been a pupil of one of the younger companions of the Prophet, but even his work has not descended to us in its original form; the oldest edition was drawn up by Ibn Hisham, and has formed the only "original source" which has hitherto been used by European Historians. On both these works the author passes an unfavorable judgment, declaring that their traditions were not collected in a critical form, and that Ibn Ishak frequently amused himself by inventing new traditions and forging the authorities. Passing over two other biographies or rather collections of traditions, we come to Wakiid, who, in the end of the second century of the Hijrah, collected an immense series of stories, sayings, and other memoranda, which were subsequently brought together in fifteen large quarto volumes by his Secretary. These volumes Dr. Sprenger considers both veracious and impartial, and which seem to have disgusted many of the Mohammedan writers who copied from them, and they have the advantage of invariably indicating the channel through which the traditions they record have been handed down. The next best authorities are the commentaries on the Koran,—which, however, are somewhat unfaithful,—and the lives of the companions of Mohammed. The chapter then concludes with a disparaging notice of Abu'daula. We think, that in any succeeding edition of his work, Dr. Sprenger would do wisely if he were to render this chapter far more full and minute, and point out the particulars in which the earlier authorities differ from the later, and if possible, to establish a somewhat more ample and just criticism of the



of Kanhar, are foolish, and that Dost Mohammed's expedition to the *vacue city* is still a matter of consideration between him and his sons. With regard to any movement from Persia, it is not worth mentioning. The British power is in, and should the Shah be inclined to move, Herat, it would be in the name of the sons of Kanhar Shah, from whom Yaqub Mohammed Khan usurped the sovereignty of the province.

—The *Water Journal* publishes a table of the sanitary condition of the troops in India, and states that the proportion of 444 men, 1411 were in the hospital, and 10,000 of 14,000 were in the hospital, and 10,000 of 14,000 were in the hospital.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.**  
—The *Madras* will be the subject of the next issue of the *Friend of India*, and will be published on the 22nd inst. The *Madras* will be the subject of the next issue of the *Friend of India*, and will be published on the 22nd inst. The *Madras* will be the subject of the next issue of the *Friend of India*, and will be published on the 22nd inst.

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—A rather singular case was heard in the Small Cause Court of Calcutta on the 14th inst. A ship laden with sugar was on its way to Calcutta. The ship had been seized by the Custom House, and the cargo was being sold. The ship had been seized by the Custom House, and the cargo was being sold. The ship had been seized by the Custom House, and the cargo was being sold.

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—Common law actions for let sitting, 3 Panzer cases. Right suit for Hearing, 1 Panzer case. Right suit for Hearing, 1 Panzer case. Right suit for Hearing, 1 Panzer case.

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of Madras has made over its collection as a commercial exhibition. The duplicates remaining of the articles deposited at the Great Exhibition have been added to the collection, and the series of Government and the community in general, are invited to visit the exhibition. The whole of the upper part of the College of Fort St. George has been allotted for the contributions, and an annual grant of Rs. 10,000 has been made for the purpose of the exhibition. The whole of the upper part of the College of Fort St. George has been allotted for the contributions, and an annual grant of Rs. 10,000 has been made for the purpose of the exhibition.

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—The half yearly Meeting of the India General Steam Navigation Company was announced for the 12th inst., but as only twelve share holders attended, and twenty-five are required to constitute a quorum, they came to no resolution. The report of the Directors for the half year has, however, been published, and the realized profits amount to Rs. 10,000, from which the Directors advise that a dividend should be declared at the rate of six per cent. on the amount. The report of the Directors for the half year has, however, been published, and the realized profits amount to Rs. 10,000, from which the Directors advise that a dividend should be declared at the rate of six per cent. on the amount.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

A Head Mistress and Superintendent for the Central School, Calcutta, is required. The salary is Rs. 1,000 per annum. The school is situated in the city of Calcutta. The school is situated in the city of Calcutta. The school is situated in the city of Calcutta.

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## AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE, INC.

is a line in to or from any direction.

Black, in addition to ordinary blacking  
leaves, the security of apparel, such as  
shoes, socks, underwear, etc., is also  
guaranteed. The stock of the Blacking  
Company is sold at stock exchange.

Six months' sight, ... 2 0 per Co.'s Bank

Four	"	"	"	1 1/2	"
Three	"	"	"	1 1/2	"
Two	"	"	"	1 1/2	"
One	"	"	"	1 1/2	"
All	"	"	"	1 1/2	"

the Black Sea. The main reason for this is that the Black Sea is a semi-enclosed body of water, and the only way for water to leave the sea is through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. This means that the water in the Black Sea is not replaced by new water from the open ocean, and the oxygen levels in the water are low. This is why the water in the Black Sea is so dark and murky.

to discount the value of the bond at the current rate of the day.

**INTEREST DEPOSIT RULES.**  
On sums deposited for 12 months certain, subject to notice.  
On sums deposited for 6 months certain, subject to notice.  
On sums deposited for 3 months certain, subject to notice.

On ditto, for ditto, subject to 60 days' notice, (open to all,) at 4 per cent. per annum.

1. The first of the three is the "information" phase, in which the individual is informed of the nature of the investigation and the fact that he is being interviewed. This phase is the most important, for it is the only one in which the individual is not yet under any form of duress or coercion. It is the only phase in which the individual is free to refuse to answer any questions or to stop the interview at any time. It is the only phase in which the individual is not yet under any form of duress or coercion. It is the only phase in which the individual is free to refuse to answer any questions or to stop the interview at any time.

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**AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.**  
**T**HE Society's Consignments of American and European vegetable seeds are in course of distribution. A small surplus stock of the latter is available to members, who

**A. H. BLECHYNDEN,**  
Secretary.

**BENGAL KYANIZED TENTS.**  
For List of Prices—drawings and further particulars  
Apply to the **OVERSEER,**  
*Bombay Govt. School of Industry.*

**JOHN NICHOLLS AND SONS, Army Tailors and**  
Hats, 42, Jerusalem Street, London, E.C. 3.

...and Hunter, a Nichols associate, who says that those officers who have given up their guns have been carefully preserved for future use.

unaccompanied with reference for payment in England on  
inconvenient dates upon Shipment of Goods, and presented  
in due course for acceptance. No Traveller employed  
elsewhere, therefore to direct 49, Jermyn Street, St. James.

**BROWN AND BROTHERS**, of Piccadilly, London.  
Have recently invented and Patent a Revolving  
Chair, which by a simple adjustment, may be instantly  
converted into a Cradle-bed. It is of iron and iron plate.

**M**RS. MCLEDDIE at Serampore, will be glad to receive two or three young children to board and study with her own, and also to accommodate ladies at a

moderate charges.—Respectable references, all over.

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**PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.**

SERAMPORE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1851.

{ Price 2 Co's. Rs. monthly or 20  
{ Rs. yearly if paid in advance.

— HUSBAND, WIFE, DEEDS, AND A CO.'S SHARE —

J. R. BURLTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge  
Genl. Post Office, the 18th Sept., 1851.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donation:—  
From Lieutenant B. Co.'s Rs. 100, for the relief of Mrs. Frost.

Another appointment held by the late Mr. B. Bethune remains to be filled up, that of President of the Council of Education. The general view of the community points to Sir James Colville as unquestionably the most suitable successor of Mr. Bethune, both from his ripe and elegant scholarship, and from the great interest which he has taken in the cause of education. Should he consent to accept the same post of influence in the Government system of education at this Presidency, which has been filled up by Sir James Colville, the Government will be at the advantage by Sir James Colville, at Bombay, than by Mr. Bethune, at Calcutta. Mr. Bethune would be too happy to secure the benefit of his services. To it we appear to be of such paramount importance, that the office should be filled up before Mr. Bethune's successor arrives, that we hope no time will be lost in completing the arrangement. Two successive Legislative Members have filled up the office of President of the Council, and there is great reason to fear lest these prescripts should require the force of a prescriptive rule, and the one office be considered as the office of the Council, to the other; which is a serious objection, and a calamity to the Government, as it is the best interests of the country, that the Legislative member should not be encumbered with the charge of another department of public duty, which demands much

THE NEW MARRIAGE ACT FOR IRELAND. We have at length the opinion of most of our contemporaries on the New Marriage Act, to which the Royal consent has been given, and we are happy to find that, since all the officious and libellous interpolations of our Legislative Council have been expunged, and the Bill has been restored to its original integrity, this measure is received with unmingled satisfaction. We do not except from this feeling the members, lay or clerical, of the Church of England, for in this remote dependency of the Crown, the feeling with which the Church of England is regarded, has reference to it rather as a religious institution than as a corporation endowed by the state with exclusive prerogatives, and enjoying the most formidable powers. Hence its members are not in a position to feel any vexation at an Act which leaves its missionaries unprotected, and merely grants the

The benefit conferred by the Act is rendered the more comprehensive by the retrospective operation which has been given to it. It declares all marriages celebrated in India before the passing of the Act by persons other than those in holy orders, to all intents and purposes, legal. This will effectually quiet the minds of those who have been told that their marriages, however bona fide, are illegal, because they have not been solemnized by a Minister of the United Church of England and Ireland, that those whom they call their wives may be seduced with perfect impunity, and that their children are illegitimate. This is no imaginary grievance. We could point to individuals who have held this language. The Act removes it at once, and legalizes every marriage which has been heretofore celebrated in India, if not essentially illegal. Of the great value of this rule we have an example.

in a case recently reported in the Moulmein papers. Mr. Mowle, the eminent ship-builder at that rising settlement, died some time back, leaving a wife and children and two lakhs of Rupees. It was stated, that the executor refused to grant any portion of this sum for the support of his widow and offspring, because Mr. Mowle had been married by one of the American Missionaries. The case was said to be before the Assistant Commissioner. Whether it has been decided or not, we have not been able to learn. If it has been given against her, must it not, under the provisions of this Act, be brought to a second hearing and decided in her favor? There are also, if we remember aright, other instances in which the succession to property, and in one case, we believe, to a title, has been decided against the parties on the ground that the marriage ceremony was not performed by a priest in holy orders. Will such decisions be liable to be revoked on the strength of this law, which declares all such marriages, without exception, valid to all intents and purposes?

**THE FRIEND OF INDIA AND THE POST OFFICE COMMISSIONER.**—In the report of the Post Office Commissioners, we find the following statement furnished by Mr. this is, of the list of Newspapers despatched from the Calcutta General Post Office, on the 20th February, 1861:—

APPENDIX A. No. 41.  
*List of Newspapers Despatched from the Calcutta General Post Office, on the 20th February, 1861.*

Names of the Presses, &c.	Number of Papers.	Weight in Pounds.	Value in Rupees.
Englishman, ...	210	17	2.94
Bengal Hurkaru, ...	158	20	4.22
Morning Chronicle, ...	113	8	3.73
Friend of India, ...	448	11	3.25
Gleaner, ...	15	0	1.9
Price Current, ...	19	0	17
Commercial Advertiser, ...	10	2	31
Sanchari Chandro, ...	19	28	1.87
Sanshodh Prokashak, ...	16	0	50
Individually, ...	74	63	2.65
Total, ...	1099	113	33.59

(Signed) E. BOUTWELL, Superintendent.  
(True Copy) Cecil Beadon, Commissioner.  
Calcutta General Post Office, 21st February, 1861.

The *Optimist* of Wednesday, the 17th instant, remarks in reference to this statement. "The *Friend of India* once said, we believe, that he had 1,600 subscribers. Has he fallen off, or does he post his papers elsewhere than in Calcutta—or how does he make up the deficiency between 1,600, and the 448 touched for under Mr. Beadon's hand?" Very easily. By an arrangement made with the Post Office authorities, for their own convenience, the *Friend of India* is posted partly in Calcutta, and partly at Barrackpore. The papers which are despatched in the North West mails, instead of being sent down to Calcutta, and forwarded from thence through Barrackpore, are sent over the water direct to the Barrackpore Post Office at ten on Thursday morning. The following are the two Post Office acknowledgments given to us on the 20th of February last.

Received at the Calcutta Post Office, ... 409  
" the Barrackpore Office, ... 506  
In all 1005. Of those sent to Calcutta on that day, 445 were for circulation on the continent of India, 6 free to the Magistrates, and 49 for despatch by steamer to Moulmein, the Cape, and the Mauritius. Independently of these 1005, 130 were sent to England through the Post Office on the same, or immediately succeeding day, and 48 to the Straits, China, and Ceylon. For each of these four lists we have regular Post Office receipts. To these the

*Optimist* will be so kind as to add the copies circulated by posts in Calcutta, Dum-Dum, Barrackpore, Serampore, Chandernagore, Chinsurah and Hooghly, and the explanation will be complete.

**THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE REGAL NATIVE ARMY, CONSIDERED WITH A VIEW TO ITS IMPROVEMENT.**—Such is the title of a pamphlet which we have just received, and which is evidently written by a Bombay officer, whom it requires neither conjurer nor clairvoyant to identify. It is a singular medley of truth and calumny, ignorance and experience, and will thus be found to furnish food both for amusement and instruction. The author writes with so much simplicity about our Bengal habits, manners and customs, as to render it clear that he has never been within the limits of this Presidency, and knows little of the Bengal army beyond what he saw of it in the trenches of Mooltan. The first four pages are devoted to Sir Charles Napier, and although he comments on our late Chief in no measured terms for his insubordination, his abuse and his presumptuous ignorance regarding the army of India, he appears by no means unwilling to support his own jaundiced views of the Bengal army by Sir Charles's testimony. He then proceeds at once to describe in eight items, "the most serious faults existing in and peculiar to the Bengal army," prefacing his bill of indictment with the assurance that he will endeavor to write exactly as if he were an officer of the Bengal army! How far he has been successful in this endeavor, we shall presently see. The following are the eight charges:—

First.—The want of a high moral tone and the existence of a certain laxity of principle among the European officers in common with European society in general in the Bengal Presidency.  
Secondly.—The want of power placed in the hands of the Chief and by Government.  
Thirdly.—The most pernicious system of drawing pay by companies direct from the divisional paymaster instead of by regiments, which again tends to bring regimental commanders into contempt, and to reduce their power and usefulness.

Fourthly.—The most defective system of conducting officers' messes.  
Fifthly.—The entire absence of a proper confidence between the officers and the Native soldiers.

Sixthly.—The most pernicious practice of attending to the wants of Native soldiers, thereby frequently excluding from our ranks the best materials for soldiers, and causing the very worst.

Seventhly.—The very bad and totally injurious system of promotion existing with respect to Native officers and soldiers.

Eighthly.—The entire absence of a proper discipline throughout the Native part of the Bengal army."

The want of a high moral tone, and the existence of a certain laxity of principle among the European officers, in common with European society in general, in the Bengal Presidency, is proved in a most full, and, we think, in a most convincing manner, by the Courts of Enquiry, &c., by disclosures regarding gambling affairs, and banking affairs, &c., by a Bengal officer's having said to a Bombay officer, who had stated that a friend of his had been ordered to raise a new regiment of Cavalry. "What a lot of money he will make!" &c., by the Bengal officers, having exclaimed when they saw the Bombay troops march into Mooltan, "that it was a very well got up affair," which proved that "deception was the rule with them," and &c., by the plundering in the town of Mooltan practised by European officers of the Bengal Army, and of high rank.

The state of indebtedness of so large a proportion of our officers, is certainly much to be deplored, and we have repeatedly called the attention of the public authorities to the neces-

ty of adopting the most stringent measures for an effective reform. If the mere existence of debt be a proof of the prevalence of low and dishonourable principles, then the charge must, in some respect, be allowed; and yet among these debtors, who are in too many instances the victims of circumstances, there are numerous instances of the existence of the most exalted and honourable principles struggling often bravely against misfortunes. The *Indra*, for example, we fully admit as an unexceptionable of the basest principles, and to a certain extent it has been allowed to creep into the Bengal army, though the Court of Directors half a century ago, ordered every gambler to be dismissed the service, and sent back to England. Still, the vice is confined to a few, and it is an act of great injustice to consider it characteristic of the whole Bengal army. We question whether it does not exist to a far greater extent in the Royal army. Neither is it just to condemn a whole body of men on the grounds affirmed in the three last items. Because one officer is still found to be imbued with the feeling which was universally prevalent at the commencement of our rule, and thought the raising a regiment a fit opportunity for making a fortune—because the Bengal officers on seeing the Bombay troops march into Mooltan, thought they had encountered to make the best and bravest appearance possible before their brother officers;—because one or two officers of high standing did that at Mooltan, which officers of the highest standing did at Ningpo, and appropriated a little to their own proper use, are we to conclude that there is a deficiency of high and honorable principle among a body of three thousand English gentlemen?

The cause he assigns for this deterioration of morals is very amusing. "From the moment a young officer sets foot in the Bengal Presidency, he is perpetually reminded of every English idiosyncrasy and habit, and is, of a griffin. He must not go out in the sunshine; he must travel in a palkee instead of on horseback, he must be punked and tutted, and nobody knows what else; he must have khansama, a kidnagar, a sardar, barbers, and a host of other servants; one for his pipe, another for his umbrella, another for his bottle, another for his chair, &c.; all to do the work of one man, and which work would be done by one man in the case of a Bombay officer." Here is the cause; now for the cure.

"Let it be the fashion to be English—Let the griffin have no more than two body servants at most; let him have no one in his service who will not do such work as his master bids him to do. If the Hindoos object to such service, there are plenty of Mussulmans ready willing, and able to take their place, and with no more prejudices than a Christian. Let the young man never enter a palkee, but go about on the back of his pony. Let him not fear the sun; it may tan his cheeks, but it will not hurt him." This rich collection of similes—if the term be allowable,—only serves to show the total ignorance which prevails at one Presidency regarding the habits, European and native, of the others. As to the Bengal sun, it is doubtless the same which shines at Bombay, but all experience teaches us, that undue exposure to it is fatal to the European constitution. Our Railway Engineers came out with a vast stock of English knowledge, and fancied they could do that in Bengal which they had done with impunity in England. They did not fear the sun; but, as the writer would doubtless have advised, continued on in it till they began to blaze; and that on horseback, and in

consequence is that one of them has sacrificed his life, and two others have been obliged to go to sea to save their lives. Then, as to the punkah and the tatty, why, in our hot and sultry weather, it is just as unreasonable to object to the use of coals in England. It costs less to keep one's self cool in India than to keep one's self warm at home, and the use is a genuine comfort and to state as the author does that punkahs have been introduced among us, European life has been lengthened, and the same satisfaction has been improved, and a European can afford a punkah bearer without getting into debt, it is his bounden duty to use one.

The troop of servants which the Bombay officer has provided for his Bengal comrade, the young Esq., khansama, kildanagar, sirdar bearer, barbers, a man to supply the pipe, another to carry the umbrella, another to hold his bottle, another to bring a chair, only shows the folly of his imagination. Our Bengal Esq.'s message is a very different thing from this fancy picture. Still it is abundantly true that every European at this Presidency has more servants than are either comfortable or agreeable to him. Every additional servant is an additional plague, and most gladly would we exchange the ten servants for one man of all work, if we could but get him. It is very ungenerous for our more fortunate brethren at Bombay to turn our very misfortune into a matter of reproach. It is the curse of caste and not the original effeminacy of our habits, which multiplies our attendants and our torments. The man who pulls the punkah won't wait at table; the man who waits at table, won't tend the horses, the groom won't sweep the house, and none of them will weed the garden. And the Mohammedans, instead of having as few prejudices as Christians, have unfortunately contracted nearly as many as the Hindoos. We are the victims of a most vicious system, the combined product of superstition and indolence, established here before we came, and which no effort can break through. We never contemplate the happy state of our Malasas and Bombay brethren without breaking the tenth commandment. Then, as to palkees, we question whether one servant in ten at the Lieutenants and Esquires at Barrackpore has such a thing to his name. Generally speaking, the Bombay officer is perfectly mistaken if he supposes that it is possible, or even advisable, to force European to be thoroughly English in their domestic habits in India. They ought to accommodate themselves to the peculiarities of the climate, stopping only at the point of offensiveness. It is not on remaining the "thoroughly English gentleman" as regards the entertainment of one servant instead of ten, or walking about in the sun, or continuing habits suited only to a climate where the thermometer falls below freezing point, in a climate where it rises to blood heat, that "our power in India rests." It is by exhibiting the superiority of English and Christian virtues, by manliness of thought, by the strictest integrity, and by our indomitable Saxon energy, that we shall maintain our hold on India, and these virtues are perfectly compatible with a salutary dread of exposure to the sun, the enjoyment of a punkah, the luxury of a white jacket, or even the indulgence of a palkee.

The second error to which the writer alludes has long been matter of complaint. "The want of power placed in the hands of regimental commanding officers, the want of confidence reposed in and support afforded to them by the Commander-in-Chief." "The commanding offi-

cer of a regiment in the Bengal army is almost powerless for good; he is allowed to do nothing." This is unquestionably an anomaly in our military system. The commander of a regiment ought to have as much power as would render it just to consider him responsible for everything which passes among the thousand men committed to his care. But the Commander-in-Chief has the command of a regiment, and it is not to be supposed that he is disposed of on the *deter dignior* principle; all is secured to it by right of seniority. Under this system, a regiment is as likely to have a dolt of a commander as a wise man and a smart soldier; and if we were not anxious to avoid an action for libel, we might expostulate the fact that many of those who are placed over regiments, are utterly incapable of commanding respect, and that the want of confidence in them by the Commander-in-Chief, and the argument is founded on the best of reasons. The writer in his simplicity says, "If all does not go well with a regiment, displace the Commander." Indeed! The Commander-in-Chief can do many things, but we question whether he can, or will take upon himself the responsibility of removing from the command of his regiment every man who is universally known and acknowledged to be unequal to his post, and placing in his stead one who would at once bring up the corps to a state of the highest efficiency.

The remarks of the writer regarding Messias, we need not advert to. He says, the "remedy for the evils connected with the state of Messias in the Bengal Army is in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief and of Government." And since his pamphlet was sent to press, His Excellency has taken up the question with zeal and vigor, and we have every reason to expect an auspicious result. The sixth evil, that of excluding men of a certain caste or creed to the exclusion of those who possess all the requirements which he bestows upon it. "By this system, a man is not to be chosen on account of his fitness to be a soldier, his willingness and strength, docility and courage, but because he is a twice-born worshipper of Vishnu." He states that in the Bombay Army, thousands of men of the same caste, and even from the same families as the brahmin and patrician soldiers of the Bengal Army, are seen in the ranks, shoulder to shoulder, may, even sleeping in the same tent with the Mahabrita, the Dher, and the Purwankot, without scruple, consequently at our Presidency. "The writer yields himself on her a Hindu in the Western Presidency on being a soldier." But it is more easy to point out the evil than to provide a remedy. The evil grew up when the officers and the members of Government were themselves more than half Hindoos, prepared to admit the most absurd pretensions of the Hindoo regarding the superiority of his caste. These were the days of moral squeamishness and timidity, when the boldness of our national spirit was smothered by Asiatic associations; and it is extremely difficult, now that we have begun to feel our own strength, and to exhibit some touch of moral courage, to correct an evil which has taken such deep root in the army. There will always be the apprehension, if not the danger, of producing a degree of disaffection and disorganization which many will deprecate more than the evil itself. Government, however, has not been unmindful of the danger, but has taken at least one step to remedy it, by ordering a large infusion of the bravest men in India, the Sikh soldiers, among the lieutenants.

"The seventh evil, the bad system of promotion, is the worst of all; its effects are crushingly ruinous. In the Bengal army, the promotion of Natives is made to depend on seniority alone; so that if a man keep clear of actual crime and live long enough, he must become a commissioned officer, however unfit for the office." "The whole of the Native Commissioned officers are entirely useless; the amount of their pay is a dead loss to the state, every one of them is unfit for service by reason of imbecility produced by old age." There is no gainsaying the truth of this representation. The Native Commissioned officer here, is a venerable, fat, unwieldy gentleman, who wears a gold neck-lace, and rides upon a pony, and who is of no use whatever in maintaining the internal economy and discipline of the corps. The chief, if not only, use, is to keep the sepoy contacted with the service by the prospect of their being able, if they live long enough, to attain the same state of luxurious enjoyment, and the supreme luxury of an Asiatic consists in doing little or nothing, avoiding care, and increasing his blubber. But, we must question whether the state of things is, after all, so very contrary to the policy of our rulers. Some of the first Military and Civil authorities, have, to our own personal knowledge, been in the habit of considering our present system identified with the safety of our rule. They reason that if the commissioned officers of the native army were younger, more energetic, and more ambitious men, they might acquire a dangerous influence in the regiment, and bring the men under subjection to the commission and work out a scheme incompatible with our supremacy. They regard it as more salutary that the Commissioned Native officers should become ciphers than heroes, and that the confidence and dependence of the sepoys should be placed in their own European officers rather than in the fellow countrymen. How far this reasoning is correct, we leave to our military readers. We merely touch for its existence.

The late order concerning the passing of officers in the Native army, is considered by the writer calculated to inflict the greatest injury on the army and the Indian empire. Officers on staff employ who do not pass the requisite examination in the native languages, are to be re-banded to their regiments. By this order, the Government has distinctly proclaimed that the only post in its military service in which a knowledge of the native language is superfluous, is the command of Native soldiers; there is no escaping this inference, and the folly and anomaly which it implies. The writer is also quite borne out in the fact, that the examination exacted is no test of that practical acquaintance with the native language which is so important. The officer is required to prove his knowledge of books, at the point that he may be utterly destitute of all familiarity with the colloquial tongue.

Lastly, the writer attacks the Furlough Regulations, and we gratefully acknowledge the value of his assistance. Those regulations belong not to the present order of things, but to the period when an answer to a letter from Bombay was rarely received under twelve months. The writer proposes to give every officer, Civil and Military, every seventh year to himself, and to allow him to go where he pleases. We need not state how cordially we agree with him in this proposal. It is the bounden duty of Great Britain to give the men who are entrusted with power and influence in the Indian administration, the opportunity of thus periodically visiting the European commonwealth of na-

tions, and comparing the improvements which are made in the science of Government, with their own ideas, and regaining that robust and healthy tone of mind which is inseparably impaired in oriental associations. This ought to be considered an indispensable qualification for the administration of Indian affairs, and we attribute no small portion of our deficiencies in India, to the absence of all opportunity for thus retraining the mind and acquiring experience in the best school. But the Court of Directors have steadily and pertinaciously resisted every effort which has been made to induce them to adapt their furlough regulations to the progress of the age, as if any improvement in them was sure to upset the empire. At a time when the voyage to and from England may be performed, at Bombay, in two months, they still cling to the rules which were laid down by their grand sires, when the voyage required nearly a twelve month. Why should the Court of Directors take so much pains to persuade the public that the India House is in some respects a museum of fossilized ideas, which are prized and cherished, as in all other cases of fossils, in exact proportion to their antiquity, and their difference from the existing economy of things?

**DIVISIONAL COMMANDS.**—We find that we were mistaken last week in supposing that the orders of the Court of Directors applied only to the post of Brigadier. A friend has responded to our call, and sent us an extract from the letter of the Court of Directors of the 17th December, 1851, which grants to Colonels holding certain offices the option of either retaining their appointments, or of *ascending* to Divisional Commands as Brigadiers General. Yet, even this order seems to foster the idea, that Colonels have a kind of right of succession to the command of Divisions; but there can be no doubt, that the Court have left it entirely optional with the local authorities, to select officers for that important post, and that every act of supersession, when supported by valid reasons, will meet with the approbation of Leadenhall Street.

But, it is impossible to reconcile the instructions in the last paragraph of the letter we quote below with the recent proceedings of the Court of Directors, in an appointment to the office of Superintending Surgeon at Bombay. The Court have directed that the post of a General of Division, and a Brigadier, in reference to the military branch of the service, and that of member of the Medical Board, and Superintending Surgeon in the medical branch, shall be equally considered in the light of Staff appointments. These offices have thus been placed on precisely the same footing. The Court have further directed that "General officers or Colonels at home appointed by them to Divisional commands, should not displace officers previously in possession of these appointments, but wait the occurrence of vacancies after their arrival at their respective Presidencies." Yet this rule has been completely set aside in the case which has occurred at Bombay. The senior Surgeon was in England when the post of Superintending Surgeon became vacant, and the senior Surgeon on the spot succeeded to it. But the Court of Directors, on hearing of the occurrence, directed the Superintending Surgeon who was in possession of the appointment, to vacate it in favor of the absent senior, who has therefore "not been obliged to wait the occurrence of a vacancy after his arrival at the Presidency;" and this supersession is not announced as an exception to the general

rule, made in favor of a particular individual by the Court, but as the established principle of the service. We have therefore one law and practice at this Presidency, and a different rule at Bombay.

L. C. D. 17th December, 1851.

With respect to the question raised as to the disqualification of Colonels eligible by seniority to Divisional Commands, to hold certain offices which they could not hold under the present regulations as General Officers, we are of opinion, that Colonels so situated, ought to have the option of either retaining their appointments, or of *ascending* to Divisional Commands as Brigadiers General; but if they prefer the retention of their offices, the Divisional Commands should not afterwards be open to them, except in special cases, to be determined by Government, and reported to us, for our approbation and sanction.

The same principle ought to be applied in the case of Senior Brigadiers, waiting their right to succeed to Divisional Commands. If they prefer remaining as Brigadiers, the superior appointment of Brigadier General ought not, in our opinion, to be open to them, except in special cases. All the members of your Government concur in recommending that General Officers or Colonels at home appointed by us to Divisional Commands, should not displace officers previously in possession of these appointments, but wait the occurrence of vacancies after their arrival at their respective Presidencies. In conformity with your recommendation, we direct that the General Officer or Colonel appointed by us to a Divisional Command should not succeed to that Command until the occurrence of a vacancy, unless we shall have specially directed otherwise.

**THE CATHOLIC HERALD AND THE FRIEND OF INDIA.**—The *Bengal Catholic Herald* is losing his temper and his propriety. In his impression of Saturday last, he says, "he deemed it proper some week or two since to expose the injustice done by the *Friend of India*, to Cardinal Wiseman in the case of Metairie *versus* Wiseman." Unfortunately, we did not read his article, and the first intimation we have of his labors for our benefit is contained in his notice last week. If he then proceeds to say, that "the *Friend*, as if he had not seen the *Bengal Catholic Herald*, inserts a conveniently got up letter on the same subject." The letter came by Post, from Dacca, and the Editor may doubtless ascertain on enquiry, whether it was got up by us, or written by one of his own community. In that letter, we were taken to task for saying that "Cardinal Wiseman's conduct in the case of Metairie *versus* Wiseman had not increased his reputation." The writer enquired, how we could venture to hazard such an opinion when the *Tablet* had given a different version of the affair. We informed him, that we did not see the *Tablet*, and had formed our opinion on the Cardinal's conduct from the report in the *Examiner*, which we offered to publish, *in extenso*, if he wished it; but he has been discreet enough not to accept our offer.

The *Bengal Catholic Herald* then proceeds to say: "But the *Friend* has not yet finished his dirty work. In his late issue, he has the pleasure to inform his readers, that the Catholic Archbishop of New York has exhibited the Wolf under Sheep's clothing." But we have never written anything of the kind. The paragraph which has roused the wrath of the *Herald*, was copied from a London paper, and placed among our "Europe Extracts." This fact could not have been unknown to the Editor, when he charged us with writing it ourselves, and he certainly cannot require to be informed that neither we, nor any of our editorial brethren, are responsible for the opinions expressed in the articles which we quote from London journals.

**THE BANK OF BENGAL AND THE HOGS AND HAMFIST AFFAIR.**—We are reluctantly obliged again to refer to this affair in connection with the allegations of the *Citizen*. He continues to affirm that Mr. Cowen gave all the votes he possessed in the Election to Mr. Grey.

Our impression is, that he had only one vote in his capacity of Director, and we were anxious to be informed where the other votes came from. As we understand the economy of the Bank, it is the Shareholders who vote for the Directors, according to the number of votes they command, and it is the Directors who vote for the Secretary, and each Director has one vote and no more. The matter is of some importance. If a single Director commands so large a number of votes in the Bank parlour, as to be able to place his own nominee in the Secretaryship, then he must enjoy the same overwhelming influence in all other questions. He becomes, in fact, the Bank, and the business of the other Directors is simply to register his decisions. But it is utterly impossible that this can be the state of things in the Bank, and we therefore reject altogether the allegations regarding Mr. Cowen's having turned the election in favor of Mr. Grey, by a plurality of votes.

**THE RAILWAY AND THE BENGA COAL COMPANY.**—The *Englisman* of the 22nd instant has the following:—

"We understand that the proprietors of coal mines in the District of Dunbar, have just discovered that the Railway Company have surveyed the line for a private branch road for the express accommodation of the Bengal Coal Company, and considering this unjust towards themselves, they are going to petition Government immediately against the measure, and to request that the road may not be diverted from its proper line, for the benefit of one colliery to the prejudice of all others."

As this is a most serious charge against the Company, and would, if substantiated, materially impair the prospects of usefulness of the entire undertaking, we have enquired into the matter, and are happy to state that it is only partially founded in fact. The line has been laid down irrespective of any other consideration than the economy of construction afforded by the best available levels. Rangesange is only intended to be a temporary terminus to avoid the immediate crossing of the Noonea river, while the coal branch line of the Railway will be carried to the junction of the Damooda and Barrauk rivers. So far from the proprietors of any one colliery being able to monopolize the approaches, or to exclude other parties, from the benefit of the Rail, the Railway Company have power, under existing Acts, to open new roads wherever they may be deemed desirable as affording accommodation to the inhabitants, and contributing to the traffic of the line. It certainly has been rumored that the Bengal Coal Company have contrived to purchase all the land through which the approaches must be made, but they have forgotten that the Government is as nearly concerned in the success of the line, as the Railway Company, and will never permit any arrangement which even the chance of a monopoly would be secured to a single association. One of the principal benefits to be derived from the Railway, is a reduction in the present prices of coal, and the *exploitation* of a superior article, and this would be effectually prevented by any such monopoly as the one alluded to. Wherever rapid and certain means of communication are introduced, they necessarily give the coup de grace to monopolies.

**JOSEF PERNAUD'S CASE.**—Under instructions from England, the Governor General has directed Sir Robert Barlow, one of the Judges of the Sudder Court, to proceed forthwith to Agra and investigate and report on the mode in which the proceedings against Josef Pernaud were conducted by the Magistrate. This measure has been adopted in consequence of the imputations cast on the conduct of the Magistrate in the





























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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

REPORT OVERLAND LATE FROM P. & CO.'S STEAMER HADJIDJON, DIRECTLY FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Suez, and the Intermediate Ports (Aden, Cochin, Aken, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong), intended for transmission by the Prisoner's long, intended for transmission by the Prisoner's long, will be closed at this Office, on Tuesday, the 7th Proximo, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Wednesday, the 8th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kedgees, in time to reach the Square. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Hadjiddjon can be received after 5 P. M. of that date.

REPORT OVERLAND MADE BY H. BENNETT.  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 3d of the ensuing month of November for the departure of the first steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Suez, the necessary arrangements are hereby given for general information. The business office, for the transmission of letters and parcels, will be closed at this Office, on Tuesday, the 7th Proximo, and that an after packet will be despatched hence on Wednesday, the 8th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kedgees, in time to reach the Square. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Hadjiddjon can be received after 5 P. M. of that date.

J. H. BENNETT, BENNETT.  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, the 26th Sept., 1851.

This is the week in the year in which our composers, who are nearly all Hindoos, claim their annual holiday of, and in which we claim the indulgence of a little repose from our readers. We have taken the opportunity of bringing up our arrears of correspondence and working off our stock of editorial "matter."

OVERLAND SUMMARY.—The Express from Bombay, with the Mail of the 25th August, arrived in Calcutta on the morning of Tuesday, the 30th September, after a voyage of thirty-five days and some hours. The news of the fortnight is of the most uninteresting description. Parliament was prorogued by the Queen in person on the 8th instant, and the Royal speech, as usual, dwelt on the few topics of congratulation which the session afforded. Her Majesty of course alluded to the passing of the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill, by which "the undue assumption of ecclesiastical titles conferred by a foreign power" has been checked, while the Legislature "has maintained inviolate the great principles of religious liberty, so happily established among us." A slight allusion to the diminution of the slave trade, and a congratulation on the removal of the taxes on air and light, complete the noticeable topics touched on in the speech. Out of doom, however, the agitation against the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill has by no means ceased, and a Catholic League, called the Defence Society, has been founded in Dublin, with the avowed object of embarrassing the Whig Ministry by influencing the elections. A union between the Irish members, and the Poetites, with an implied pledge to repeal the Titles Bill, is talked of, but in the present state of public feeling, no Ministry would venture even to attempt such a measure. A discussion has also taken place in the House of Commons, as to the right of the Protestant residents of Rome to build and maintain a Protestant chapel in that city, under the protection of the British flag. The question was put by Sir H. Aggle, and was answered by Lord Palmerston, who stated that the Consulate at Rome had a right to a Chapel, and a Chaplain, half of whose salary was to be provided for by the Protestant community, but Her Majesty's Government had no right to exercise any authority over such chapels, inconsistent with the law of the Roman States. The Royal Commission-

ers have at length announced, that the Great Exhibition will be finally closed on Saturday, the 11th October, and the reports of the juries will be published immediately after in the *London Gazette*. It appears probable, that after all that has been said of the meagreness of the American department, one of the first prizes will be carried off by an American, Mr. McCormick. He has invented a reaping machine, which, according to Mr. Mechi, will reap from ten to fifteen acres of wheat per day, and which bids fair to supersede manual labour in that department of agriculture. The only remaining intelligence of importance refers to some details of the census, which will be found in another number, and which are strongly indicative of that gradual accretion of the population in towns, which has been observed for the last thirty years. While the population of London has increased twenty-two per cent. since 1811, and other great towns in a nearly equal proportion, the population of Shropshire has increased only one per cent., while that of Wiltshire has actually decreased. The remainder of the Home intelligence is confined to reports of great crimes and great railway accidents. In the latter, the South Western Railway has attained an unenviable pre-eminence, the frequency of "accidents," "occurrences," and "mistakes" on that route being even greater than on the Eastern Counties Railway, so much so, that *Punch* gives as a reason why the "good time" is so long in coming, that "it stands very foolishly by an express train on the South Western."

In France, all business, whether political or otherwise, seems suspended during the silent struggle of the great parties who intend to make a final trial of their strength in 1852. A rumour has been spread abroad, that the Prince de Joinville has proposed to stand for the Presidency, but the prince, it is said, has disclaimed any such intention. A fire which took place at the Hotel des Invalides, on the occasion of the funeral of Marshal Sebastiani, has created some interest, as it destroyed several of the flags taken by the French from other nations. The only other item of continental news is a decree by which the Queen of Spain confers on the son or daughter to whom the Duchess of Mantua's pension is about to give birth, the dignity of Infante of Spain. A few years ago, the possible succession of a grandchild of Louis Philippe to the throne of Spain, had nearly given birth to a European war, while at the present moment it is scarcely deemed worthy of a newspaper paragraph. An insurrection has broken out in Cuba, which promises to have a more serious termination than the mock "invasions" of that island, by the people of the Southern States of America. A large party in the island has declared for "freedom," and the Spanish troops have been defeated. General Lemery, in command of the garrison of Havana, is unable to leave the town, as the people are disaffected, while thousands of Americans are, it is said, preparing to visit the island, and share in the coming struggle. On the other hand, France has promised to support Spain in the event of any interference with Cuba on the part of the Government of the United States.

Indian subjects appear to excite an additional degree of attention in England, as the pe-

ried for Parliamentary revision approaches. The *Times* has published two long leaders, one advising the immediate annexation of the Nizam's dominions, and the other condemning most strongly the delay which has taken place in reimbursing the sufferers by Sir W. Turton's defalcations. The latter article produced a letter from Sir J. W. Hogg, unusually quiet and respectful in its tone, but "smashing" every statement made by the Thunderer in the most complete style.

THE CIVIL BONUS FUND.—This is the Age of Bonuses. "Young Promotion" is pushing his Bonus fund with characteristic zeal and unmitigated success. A proposal is on the carpet for creating a Medical Bonus Fund, and now the junior members of the Civil Service are making a strenuous effort to raise a similar fund to purchase the retirement of the seniors, and clear the board for the advancement of the juniors. Bonuses seem to be considered justifiable in every department except that of the Bengal Bank, where the offer of the late Mr. Hampton to the Secretary of a bonus of 40,000 Rs. to take himself out of the way and leave the coast clear for canvas, is considered a most atrocious proceeding, which it is necessary to visit with the severest penalty. Be that as it may, There can be no doubt that the Civilians under twenty-five years' standing could not make a more profitable investment of three per cent. of their incomes, than to create a bonus fund to accelerate promotion. The retirement of a Civil Judge will give promotion to the several grades below him of the annual value of perhaps 25,000 Rs. If five steps are purchased for 150,000 Rs., the improvement produced in the allowances of the juniors will not fall short of 125,000 Rs. a year. There can be little doubt, moreover, that a bonus of 30,000 Rs. would be a sufficient inducement to many men, who are now lingering in the service, to retire, because it would enable them to make up their subscriptions to the Annuity Fund, or to create a small purse to begin house-keeping at home. We earnestly recommend the scheme to the careful attention of all those members of the service, who will benefit by its success. The plan proposed by our correspondent of appointing a Central Committee in Calcutta, to collect the votes of the service, and to organize the plan of operations, appears to be precisely that which is necessary to ensure success, and we hope it will be adopted without delay. At present, the number of unaccepted annuities is very considerable, and if the operation of the fund should induce those whose period of service is mature, to take their annuities and to quit the service, it will have accomplished a most desirable object. There is only one point on which we entertain some doubts. The number of those who voluntarily retire from the Service every year has been on an average of the last few years, five or six; and there is every prospect that this number will retire annually, whether there be any extraordinary inducement or not. The Bonus Fund proposes to provide for the retirement of five Civilian every year. How then can it be possible to be certain that the very same officers who would have retired, whether or no, may not be the same who will accept their bonus as the

price of retirement. In that case, there will be no quickening of promotion from the funds thus raised, and the junior members will have impoverished themselves in vain. We merely throw out this idea for the consideration of those who are anxious to establish the fund, in the hope that they will be able to devise some plan by which this disappointment may be averted.

After these remarks were in type, we received a communication from "Bombay," which we publish in conjunction with that of "Furbo," and recommend both to the attention of our Civil readers.

**JUGUNNATH AND THE STATE.**—Some time ago we stated that very stringent orders had been received from the Court of Directors, to sever at once and for the golden link by which the state had hitherto been bound to this shrine, by discontinuing the donation which was paid for its support from the Government treasury. We also stated that in reference to the last arrangement which had been made with the proprietor of the temple, we thought some compensation was due to him on the stoppage of this annual donation. We were unable to support this opinion at the time by a reference to documents, as the Jugunnath Blue Book, published by the Court of Directors, had been sent to a friend and mislaid. We have now recovered it, and are enabled to resume the subject, and to give a narrative of the late proceedings of Government regarding the temple.

Every one, of course, knows its past history. Several years after we had taken possession of the province of Orissa, the British Government, partly with the view of increasing its own resources, and partly in the hope of affording gratification to the Hindoos, made the temple a state establishment, took over its endowed lands, fixed a scale of fees for the pilgrims, and from the revenue thus raised, appropriated about 60,000 Rs. to the expenses of the temple, and carried about 54,000 Rs. to its own credit. At the same time, the priests were forbidden by a legislative enactment to collect their usual fees, or to receive any thing which was not voluntarily given to them. This unhallowed connection of a Christian Government with an idolatrous shrine excited general indignation in England, and the Directors were at length constrained to send out positive orders to the Governor General to break up the alliance.

Lord Auckland was at the time at Simla, whither he had proceeded with all the executive powers of the State in his pocket. His Council in Calcutta advised him to meet the wishes of the Court of Directors and of the people of England, by discontinuing the pilgrim tax, and restoring the management of the temple to the Raja of Khoorda, and giving back the estates which we had been managing; by abolishing the donation, and repealing the Act which forbade the priests to collect their "usual fees" from the pilgrims. This would have been to place the temple of Jugunnath on precisely the same satisfactory footing as the great shrine of Vishnubur at Benares, and, in fact, every other shrine at this Presidency. Lord Auckland, however, thought fit to take a different view of the case. He considered that "our promise of the allowance for the support of the temple was distinct and unconditional," that is, that it was not conditional on our receiving any thing from the temple. He therefore restored the estates, and directed that the difference between their annual value and the annual donation, or Rs. 30,178, should be paid to the Raja of Khoorda, from the public treasury. At the same time, he

abolished the pilgrim tax, which had yielded a net income, on an average, of 54,000 Rs. to the British Government annually, and thus saddled the State with a loss of 90,000 Rs. a year.

This arrangement of Lord Auckland was embodied in his Minute of the 17th November, 1838. It was in every respect objectionable and unsatisfactory, and the Court of Directors soon found themselves compelled, by the pressure from without, to take up the subject anew, and to request the Government of India to describe the nature of the pledge which was said to have bound us to this perpetual donation. The local authorities stated that they could discover no pledge of any kind whatever, and that the only obligation by which we were bound, was the assurance held out by Sir Arthur Wellesley in his negotiation with the Maharatta Yakoels, and by Lord Wellesley and the officers acting under him in Cuttack, that the temple and the brahmins attached to it, should be taken under the protection of the British Government. In reply to this communication the Court wrote to the Government on the 18th of December, 1844, advising that the sum of Rs. 30,178 annually paid, should be commuted by the restoration of any other lands of equal value which might have formerly belonged to the temple. These lands they directed to be "left exclusively to the management of the officers of the temple, thus the discontinuance of our interference with its concerns might thus be made complete." On the receipt of this letter, a report was called for from Mr. Mills, the Cuttack Commissioner, respecting any land that might formerly have belonged to the temple of Jugunnath. Mr. Mills reported that no record or trace of any such lands could be found, and recommended that lands yielding an equal annual rental should be purchased by Government, and made over to the Raja of Khoorda.

Mr. Mills's proposal to substitute an endowment in land for the money allowance now paid to Jugunnath, was taken up by Mr. Lewis, the senior member of the Board of Revenue, who recorded an able minute on the subject. He expressed his gratification at finding that the strong opinion previously expressed by the Board that no pledge whatever existed, except that assurance of protection which is given to all religious establishments, had been approved by the Court of Directors. He alluded to the well known fact that the greater portion of the sum which had been relinquished as the pilgrim tax, found its way into the hands of the priests and the proprietor of the temple—so that the account stood thus: The sum which was received for the support of the temple in 1839 by the priests and proprietor, was about 60,000 Rs.; in the year 1844, they received, in addition to that sum, the whole of the Government share of the profits of the temple, or 54,000 Rs.; that is to say, by the abolition of the pilgrim tax, the revenues of the temple, and the profits of the establishment at Jugunnath, had been nearly doubled; and Mr. Lewis therefore argued, that we were not bound to make any additional donation, and to maintain our very objectionable connection with the idol. This argument was irrefragable. In reference to the proposal to commute the money donation for land, he observed that such an arrangement did not appear to be contemplated by the Court, and that there were still stronger objections to it than to a money allowance, as now made. In India, the bestowal of land was considered by far the highest and most honorable boon which could be conferred by Government, either on a community or an individual. "The Hindoo would

continue to point for ages, (it may be,) with increasing exultation, to the lands with which, in the middle of the nineteenth century, the supreme ruling authority had endowed the temple of his idol." The general argument of Mr. Lewis was embodied in a letter from the Sudder Board of Revenue to the Government of Bengal, the concluding paragraph of which ran thus: "In the absence, therefore, of all pledge on the part of Government to continue the donation to this temple, and in the absence of all evidence, showing any necessity, whether of expediency or otherwise, for persisting in a measure satisfactorily shown to be objectionable to most serious objections, and considered generally derogatory to the political character of our Government, the Board respectfully and earnestly advise the unreserved abolition in perpetuity of the donation in question."

This communication was sent by the Government of Bengal to the Government of India, without note or comment, on the 13th of August, 1845. On the 6th of September, Mr. Busby communicated the decision of the Government of India to the Bengal Government. But we have reason to know that this important document, though bearing Mr. Busby's signature, was written by Mr. Millet, one of the members of Council, to whom the investigation of the question had been committed by his colleagues. We need scarcely say that Mr. Millet was among those who regarded the support of Jugunnath by Government with the deepest abhorrence, and was most anxious, if possible, to discontinue the temple from the state. He entered upon the examination of the documents with all that industry, deliberation, and impartiality for which he was so eminent, and came at length to the conclusion, that the "most reasonable course would be to place the endowments of the temple as nearly as possible, on the same footing as we found them on the acquisition of the province, and to discontinue the payment of any sum in excess of the funds as then existing." He then entered into an elaborate examination of the various items of income, which were said to have been enjoyed, forty years before, and concluded by cutting down the donation from Rs. 55,758 to 22,860, or thereabouts. "When it is further considered," he observes, "that the annual amount of the pilgrim tax, on an average of the last eleven years, was Rs. 55,398, (including, however, the minor priests' fees), and that it may be reasonably supposed that the whole or nearly the whole of this will henceforward be collected by the priests," the Governor General thinks there will be little reason to complain of the substitution of Rs. 22,860 for Rs. 55,758.

This was considered in the light of an "adjustment" of the matter; the Supreme Council fully adopted it, and the Government of Bengal was directed to issue the necessary injunctions to the Board of Revenue. It must be borne in mind, however, that this adjustment was not in any respect in accordance with the orders or expectations of the Court of Directors. They were anxious that the discontinuance of their interference with the concerns of the temple should be complete, by restoring lands of equal value for the pilgrim donation. But this arrangement continued the objectionable interference, and simply cut down the amount of the donation. The Court treated it as a religious and political question, which deeply affected their character throughout Christendom.—The Government of India treated it only as a question of economy, which would be satisfactorily settled by saving the treasury some £1800 a year. They therefore left the Court of Directors in the same unpleasant position in which they had

stood, and from which they had been so anxious to be relieved. The arrangement was communicated to the Court of Directors on the 7th of January 1846. In the first fourteen paragraphs of the despatch, the Government of India announced their proceedings regarding the superintendence of Native religious institutions at the other Presidencies, and then took up the question of Jugganath, and described the difficulty which appeared to exist regarding the substitution of a land endowment for a money payment, and finally proposed that the donation should be continued on a reduced scale. To this despatch, the Directors replied on the 20th of May 1846, in the following enigmatical language: "In your letter of the 7th January, 1846, you have reported the measures taken under your directions for discontinuing the connection of the Government officers, at the several presidencies, with the religious institutions and ceremonies of the natives. We entirely approve of your proceedings on the subject, and are happy to learn that the end in view has been so satisfactorily prosecuted." The natural inference from this letter was, that the Court approved of the arrangements which has been made regarding Jugganath, and that they did so as apparent from the Resolution of the General Court on the 25th of March 1847. "Resolved that the Papers on which the Court of Directors consented to the recommendation of the Bengal Government as to the continued annual payment to the Temple of Jugganath, under a certain modification, be laid before the Proprietors." Here the matter rested, and the Government out here considered it as definitely settled. In the mean time, however, the agitation of the subject was renewed in England by a body of men of honourable and Christian feelings, and great firmness of purpose. No public meeting was called; no platform orations were delivered, but a quiet, yet stern opposition was organised, which the Directors well knew would speedily be developed within the walls of Parliament. They determined, therefore, to anticipate these discussions, in which they must inevitably have been worried, by writing out in all haste to the Government of India, directing, that as no pledge had been discovered for the continuance of the donation, measures should be immediately adopted to bring it to a termination, and to relieve Government from any, even the slightest, connection with the shrine. Such is the history of the Act, which is to be passed immediately, so as to enable the Court of Directors to lay it on the table of the House as soon as Parliament assembles, and thus at the very opening of the Charter discussions to relieve their character from the odium which this connection has so long incurred on it.

We cannot direct our minds of the idea that the arrangement proposed by Mr. Millet, in September 1845, and adopted by the Government of India, and sanctioned by the Court of Directors, created an obligation which cannot be thus summarily disposed of by an Act of the Legislature. To the proposal of Mr. Millet, there are the most serious objections, in every point of view. Our plain and obvious duty in reference to the temple, was to discontinue the donation, which we had paid out of the proceeds of the tax which we had been in the habit of collecting, as soon as we discontinued the tax itself, and allow the priests to take whatever fees they could obtain from the devotional feelings of the people, and thus restore the temple to the legitimate custodians. It was impossible to make any case of obligation on our part to continue a donation from our own treasury, after

we left the field of collection in the hands of the Priests. Mr. Millet, in the exercise of that feeling of transparent simplicity and integrity for which he was so distinguished, has supplied the strongest argument against his own arrangement in his own paper. His object was to place the endowments of the temples as nearly as possible on the same footing as we found them on the acquisition of the province. He therefore proposed a money donation of about 23,000 Rs. in addition to the 21,000 obtained by the priests from the estates restored to them. At the same time, he said that "it might reasonably be supposed that the whole of the 95,359 Rs. or nearly the whole, which we collected as the tax, would henceforward be collected by the priests." Now this pilgrim tax was not enjoyed by the priests when we took the province, but by the Malabar Government, and when we relinquish it to the sacerdotal establishment at Jugganath, we increase their income to that extent, that is, we raise it from 47,000 Rs. a year to nearly 120,000 Rs. But after we have thus made them a present of nearly a lakh of Rupees a year, is there any reasonable belief within the four seas of Great Britain, who are brought to believe, that we are also obliged to perpetuate an odious and degrading connection with the shrine, by making an annual payment of 23,000 Rs. more, from our own Treasury? Still, we did make such an arrangement with the priests, in 1845. We did inform that most illustrious of sacerdotal princes the Raja of Khooria, that we had carefully examined the whole question, and had readjusted the allowance, and found that he was entitled to claim 23,000 Rs. a year from us, which would henceforth be paid to him from the Pooree treasury. This "recommendation of the Bengal Government, as to the continued annual payment to the Temple of Jugganath" received the consent of the Directors, and they have published this fact to the world in the Blue Book under review. We venture, therefore, to assert that the new engagement which was thus made, most unnecessarily, and most posterously we admit, but still most unequivocally made, six years ago, does not admit of our cancelling it, honorably, without making the Raja some money compensation.

**COURT OF REQUESTS.—RECOVERY OF SMALL DEBTS.**—The *Optimist* of the 17th and the *Englishman* of the 20th ultimo, contain articles strongly advocating the immediate abolition of those anomalous institutions, the Military Courts of Request. The circular issued from the Adjutant General's office, which we published a fortnight ago, would have doubled the power of those tribunals, but, fortunately for the officers, it contained a very serious error. According to the Mutiny Act of 12th and 13th Victoria, the Military Court is only empowered to touch one-half of an officer's pay, and the following notice from the same department corrects the blunder:—

"Nothing can be clearer than these two points:—First, that the whole of an Officer's pay, coming to him in any month, is available to satisfy decrees of Courts of Request, to the extent sanctioned by the Mutiny Act, Section 66.

Secondly, that an Officer's having given orders on his pay, for instalments in favor of a Bank, presents no bar to the decrees of Courts of Request being satisfied. By "pay coming to him" is understood the residue of his pay and allowances after deducting the stoppages made by the rules of the Court for the Military and Orphan Funds, and for the Band Fund in regiments having Bands, &c. But the bulk of such residue, to the extent of half an Officer's entire pay and allowances, is liable to be appropriated to satisfy decrees of Courts of Request, notwithstanding any other disposition of it, or any part of it, which an Officer may have made. These decrees include the small debts payable on his pay which an Officer may

have previously given. It is therefore unjust to put off the liquidation of the proved demands of creditors, in order to give a preference of payment to a Bank, or so as to let the defalcator retain half his pay entire."

Even the amended order, however, invests those Courts with a degree of power, which renders an examination into their operation highly expedient. The principle of the Courts is intelligible enough. They were established to enable tradesmen to recover just debts from officers, who might otherwise by their distance, frequent change of residence, and cantonment law, have been practically exempt from all civil process in actions of debt. There may also have been a desire to give the officer the benefit of a more expeditious and cheaper Court than the ordinary tribunals; but if any such idea was originally entertained, the effect has been very different from the design. At present, every tradesman who gives credit to a non-military customer at a distance, knows perfectly well, that he has only his own judgment regarding the solvency and honesty of his debtor to rely on, and he grants credit accordingly. With regard to Military officers, there is no such restraint imposed on him, as he knows he can submit his claim to a Court of Requests, obtain a decree of general execution, and realize his debt, without expending a farthing in legal proceedings. Such a privilege, of course, renders the tradesman quite indifferent to the character, or the resources of his military customer, and he supplies him to any extent, though perfectly aware that he is exceeding his means. We do not state this to condemn the tradesman, as it is scarcely to be expected that the wise merchant should enquire whether Esauig Nobody was drinking more beer than his pay justified, or that the tailor should hesitate in sending a dozen of kid gloves, because he knew that his customer had not the means of paying for a third of that number. What we, in conjunction with our contemporaries consider to be necessary, is, that the tradesman should be compelled to watch over his own interests, and practically those of his customers, by being deprived of the benefit of summary military law to collect his dues; and both the *Optimist* and the *Englishman* have, therefore, strongly recommended the entire abolition of all Courts of Requests, a proposal in which we most cordially concur.

There is another and more extensive question in connection with this subject, which our contemporaries have not yet touched. Every argument against the propriety of Military Courts of Request, applies with equal force to every Court established for the recovery of every species of debt likely to be contracted in business. If the best mode of checking indiscriminate credit and consequent extravagance in the Army, be, to compel the tradesman to protect himself by the exercise of vigilance and judgment, the principle will naturally be applicable to the debts of other sections of the community. In both instances, the tradesman allows his customer a degree of credit which makes him careless of his expenditure, and then comes down on him, at once, through the instrumentality of either the Civil or the Military Court. It may admit of some considerable doubt, whether the whole machinery of our laws for the recovery of debts is not founded on error, and whether the buyer and the seller would not be equally benefited by the abolition of all such process whatsoever. We are not starting a new opinion, but one which has been held by some of the most profound thinkers in Europe, and which is partially incorporated with the constitution of some of the American States. They are not deterred by that impossibility of anticipating their steps which renders

every movement of the English Legislature so hesitating and dilatory, and they have, therefore, made several startling innovations on the old principle that "if the debtor cannot pay in purse, he must in person." Not only have some of the States abolished the law of arrest, and exempted the homestead from process of execution, but the Legislature of Michigan have actually gone the length of abolishing at one stroke all process for recovery, and the merchants and tradesmen are reported to affirm, that they never lost so little by their customers as since they have been obliged to exercise more judgment and discretion themselves, and to act with their wits about them. This measure, of course, leaves the statute of frauds untouched, and the swindler just as much as ever within the reach of the law. We cannot better conclude our remarks than by quoting the opinion of the great author of "The Commercial Dictionary."

"The system of credit tempts very many, and sometimes even the most considerate individuals, to indulge in expenses beyond their means, and thus becomes the fruitful source of insolvency, bankruptcy, and bad faith. To guarantee themselves from the voluntary risk to which such proceedings expose them, traders are obliged to advance the price of their goods to a most exorbitant height, so that those who are able and who really mean to pay the debts they contract, are in fact obliged to pay those of the house of insolvents and swindlers maintained by the present system. . . . No one who is not content with a grant on this under bid, or who expects to get more drawn by or upon a merchant's bill, will be so rashly to grant a credit, but he who is satisfied that it will be highly advantageous to every class of the community, and most of all to labourers, retail dealers, and small tradesmen. It would protect the former from oppression, at the same time that it would tend powerfully to render them more provident and conservative; it would teach the latter to exercise that discretion in the granting of credit which is so very indispensable; and it would be publicly beneficial by strengthening the moral principle, and making the contracting of debts for small sums without the means of paying them at once difficult and disagreeable."

**THE BENGOAL MILITARY FUND.**—We publish among our correspondence, the Proceedings of a meeting of members of the Military Fund, held at Ferozepore on the 10th of September, which are of no little interest to all those members who are stationed beyond the four hundred mile circle from Calcutta. The circumstances which gave rise to the meeting are as follows: The Directors of the Military Fund have for some time pressed upon the attention of the army, a proposition for modifying the arrangements under which the Chaplains, as Military officers, pay their subscriptions. At present the Assistant Chaplains subscribe as Captains, and on their promotion to full Chaplaincies, as Majors. After fifteen years' service, they again increase their subscriptions until they equal those of Lieut. Colonels, and after twenty years, those of full Colonels. The Directors wish to allow them to subscribe as Majors after nine years' service, and this proposition has been supported, though not, we believe, unreservedly, by Major Hannington, but it is stoutly resisted by no inconsiderable proportion of the Subscribers. On the merits of the proposition, we do not pretend to offer any decided opinion, as it can only be decided by a professed actuary, but as far as we can judge, it would give the Assistant Chaplains an undue advantage over the Subalterns, from the late period, comparatively speaking, at which they enter the service,—the one on an average, at twenty-six, the other at seventeen.—The officers at the station of Ferozepore, at a Meeting held on the 18th June, expressed a very decided opinion on the subject, which they transmitted to the Directors. Unfortunately, however, they ticked to the major question, a minor one as to the mode in which the propositions were made

known to the members of the Fund. They observed that the circulation of the Calcutta journals in the North-West, particularly beyond the Sutlej, was so limited, that the advertisement did not ensure the requisite publicity. They therefore recommended that the advertisements should be inserted in the North-Western journals. The Directors, happy to catch the refractory members tripping, replied to their resolutions, by coolly pointing out that Art. 39 of the Rules compelled them to advertise in the Calcutta papers, and passed over the major proposition altogether. Another Meeting was therefore held on the 10th September, in which the officers, after apologizing for their unintentional mistake, requested that a Special Meeting may be called to alter Art. 39, and gave the Directors a quiet rebuke, for the mode in which their opinions on the question of the Chaplain's subscriptions had been ignored. We need not say that we fully agree with the resolutions of the Meeting. That Article of the Rules should be immediately modified. The officers of the army are loud in censuring the Court of Directors for continuing to adhere to furlough rules which were formed when a voyage to and from England occupied the best part of a year. With what color of reason can they themselves for a moment retain a rule for the publication of propositions, which was framed when there were no Non-Resident papers, and continue to continue the restrictions to papers when are now comparatively little seen by the great bulk of the officers, under the new order of things which has arisen from the establishment of a new Presidency in the North West.

**THE LAWRENCE ASYLUM.**—We are indebted to the kindness of a friend for the following copy of a letter addressed by Sir William Gomm to the Rev. W. J. Parker, Superintendent of the Lawrence Asylum at Kussoowlee:

(Copy.)  
From His Excellency Sir William G. C. B., Commander-in-Chief of India, to the Rev. W. J. Parker, Chaplain and Superintendent of the Lawrence Asylum, at Kussoowlee.  
Kussoowlee, 5th April, 1851.

"REVEREND SIR,—I am anxious to express to you, how highly gratified I have been, by my visit, made yesterday morning, to the Lawrence Asylum, under your care. All that has met my eye in a necessarily hasty course of observation, gives me assurance of the value of the Institution, of the purity and healthiness of its locality, and of the excellence of its direction.

I anticipate the most beneficial results, generally to society, and especially to that class of it to which it is my privilege to belong, as the working of it is improved. In only such its progress with day's interest. In the course of this day, Lady Gomm has also visited the Institution, and has derived a satisfaction, equal to my own, from all that find her attention there. I have directed that a donation of Rs. 1,500 (Rupees fifteen hundred), in aid of the funds of the Institution, should be placed at your disposal, in my own name.

Believe me to remain,  
Respected and dear Sir,  
Very faithfully yours,  
(Signed) Wm. Gomm."

Sir W. Gomm, with the good feeling which he has invariably shown since his appointment to his present high office, has identified himself with an institution which has proved of such incalculable benefit to the European soldiery in India. His Excellency, and Lady Gomm attended at the ceremony of opening a new Chapel and Hall in the Institution, and her Ladyship laid the foundation of the new Girl's school which is now in course of erection.

The party were received by Sir H. Lawrence, the founder of the Institution and the Rev. J. W. Parker, and the scene was enhanced by the presence of all the children, in number one hundred and sixty-four, who are at present in the Asylum. After doing justice to a breakfast

provided by the Rev. J. Parker, the procession moved on to the Chapel, their numbers being increased by the arrival of visitors from Simla, Dughla, Subatho, and Kussoowlee, and nearly a hundred privates of H. M.'s 60th Regt. After Divine Service, and a sermon suited to the occasion from the Rev. C. Quary, the guests adjourned to a Tiffin provided for them, the scene being considerably enlivened by the attendance of the Band of the 60th Rifles, through the kind permission of Colonel Bradshaw, C. B., and the officers of the Regiment, who, together with the privates of the Corps, have been cordial and liberal supporters of the Institution.

The new Chapel and School Hall is 75 feet in length, 44 in width, and 35 high. It is erected in the most substantial manner, of Grey Stone in the Tudor style, and is arranged internally for the accommodation of a School room of 350, and as a Chapel of 500 children, with a class room and porch attached; it cost about £3,000 Rupees. It will be open to the public on Sundays, seats being set apart for the accommodation of visitors.

At 3 o'clock P. M., the first Stone of a new girl's School was laid by Lady Gomm, assisted by his Excellency. A paper containing the following inscription, was put into a bottle and then placed in the stone:

"In the name of the Blessed Trinity." Amer.  
"The first stone of a House for the instruction of Female Children of European Soldiers." Words of the Lawrence Asylum, was laid on this 17th day of September, in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-one by us."

William Gomm.

Elizabeth Gomm.

The following is a list of the Company present:—

From Simla.—His Excellency Sir William Gomm, Lady Gomm—the Honorable Captain Douglas and Captain Shapton, A. D. C., Colonel Legard, C. B., C. M. General, H. M. Forces—Mr. Thornton, Secretary to the Government—the Lieut. Governor, Major Barr, Secretary to the Board of Administration, Captain and Mrs. Philip, Bengal Artillery, Mrs. Barton, Miss Lawrence, Mrs. Tyder, Mr. Ford, C. B., Mrs. C. B. Saunders, Lieut. Forbes, Punjab Cavalry. From Subatho and Dughla.—Colonel Bledsoe and Colonel Coton, H. M.'s 22d Foot. The Rev. Mr. Newton and the Rev. Mr. Janvier. From Kussoowlee.—Colonel Bradshaw, C. B., Colonel Denale, H. M.'s 60th Rifles, Col. Dennis, C. B., Artillery, Captain the Honorable M. Poynt, H. M.'s 60th Rifles, Mr. Edmondstone, Commissioner of the United States, Lieut. Hobson, Assistant Commissioner, St. Edmund's, Mrs. Gravich, the Rev. F. Beecher and Mrs. Ductor, Captain and Mrs. Pritchard, &c. &c.

**POST OFFICE GUIDE, AND DIRECTORY BOOK.**  
We have received a copy of the work, issued by Messrs. Sanders and Co. of London, containing a number of tables, a quantity of that minute species of information which, though of great value in expediting business, is generally omitted in such publications. For example, the table showing the exact position of a letter of any weight, addressed to any station in India, is accompanied by another with the number of the window in the General Post Office, at which each letter should be posted. A list of places in the interior is added, together with the districts to which their letters should be addressed, and this might be improved in a future edition by giving the name of every factory, and Mowat's station, with the name of the district post office annexed. The pamphlet also a ready printed dawk book, interleaved with blotting paper, and calculated to save a great deal of trouble, particularly in private houses, where the sender of the letter enters it in the dawk book himself.

## WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25.  
—The fearful earthquake which ravaged the principal towns in the Punjab last year, has again visited that









— it is in our power at once to reap all that Presidency for good to remove the obstacles which had undoubtedly impeded progress, any longer continue inactive, wish he may do to our interests. Let us, for once, bestir  
He is on his thinging time, the object attained  
ed by the Reduction of 3 per cent. I would propose being  
— A casctery description of allowances, acting, or sub-  
pup before if the Subscription of six months' difference of  
September between the inferior and superior grades of of-  
derd Ruzd be paid by the party promoted to a *substantive*  
by absent, whatever might have occasioned the vacancy,  
the salary, or retirement of an officer, his having  
one died to Europe, or his death, his rank from his  
of (attained, or final removal from the service.  
you. Refunds on the account to be allowed.

We, Naval servants on furlough to Europe, to be exempted from all deductions from allowances during their absence from India, provided it does not exceed 3 years, in their 25 years of service. Should an officer be absent longer than 3 years from the country, he is to be subjected to such fine for the benefit of the Fund, as the majority of the Subscribers to the Fund may adjudge him liable to.

17. An officer having returned from furlough and on subsistence allowance, not to be subjected to deductions of any kind till posted to an acting, or substantive appointment, when the 3 per cent. deductions from his allowances should commence, the six months' difference of salary not, however, to be required from him, unless the substantive appointment to which he is nominated, be of a superior grade to the one he held previous to going on furlough, when the difference between the salaries of the two would have to be paid for six months.

<sup>a</sup> In all cases during the six months, which intervened between the date of an officer's promotion, and his entry

ing on the full salary, the deduction of three per cent would be made only from the salary of the inferior office.

19. The amount of Bonus I would propose to be paid to each retiring subscriber to the Fund, is 30,000 Rs. cash in India, or £3000 by a Bill of Exchange on London payable at sight, whichever the retiring officer preferred.

20. This Bonus is to be offered to all subscribers to the Fund, without exception, immediately on their completing the necessary period of residence, and service, as required by the Rules of the Civil Service Annuity Fund, to

22. Should an annuity not be available to him on his becoming duly qualified for one by completion of period of service, &c., the Bonus to be paid to him in the following season, on condition of his retiring within six months of the annuity becoming available.

23. The Bonus to be considered irrecoverably lost to all parties who, from whatever cause, neglect to retire within the time above prescribed.

24. On the 1st May last, there were 191 Civil Servants permanently attached to Districts in the N. W. Provinces. Of these 26 are *ineligibles*, that is, they have either completed their 25 years of service, or will have completed them by the close of the current year 1851, they are therefore omitted altogether from the account.

25. Of the remaining 165, the following table gives approximately, their monthly and annual salaries, and the sums they would contribute towards the formation of the Fund, which latter being doubled, would give as near as can be guessed at, the total amount of the contributions to the Fund from the Belgian and N. W. Districts of the service.

GRADE.		No. of Officers.	Monthly Salary of each.	Total Salary of all.	No. of Months.	Total Salary paid.	Promotions from Salaries at 5 per Cent.
<i>Commissioners.</i>							
Including Trans and Coastal Commissioners, 1 Commissioner of Customs, 1 Accountant, 1 Member of the Lahore Board, 1 Sudder Judge, 1 Secretary to Government, ... ..		10	× 2,500	= 25,000	× 12	= 3,00,000	10,540
Judges, ... ..		9	× 2,500	= 22,500	× 12	= 2,70,000	8,100
<i>Additional Judges.</i>							
Including 1 Registrar to Sudder Court, 1 Post Master General, 1 Secretary to the Sudder Board, 1 Civil Auditor, 1 Additional Judge, ... ..		5	× 2,000	= 10,000	× 12	= 1,20,000	3,600
<i>Magistrates and Collectors.</i>							
Including 1 Collector of Customs, 1 Superintendent of Simlah, 1 Deputy Commissioner, 1st Class Trans Sutlej States, ... ..		33	× 2,250	= 74,250	× 12	= 8,91,000	26,730
<i>Judicial Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, 1st Grade.</i>							
Including Assistant Secretary to Government, Secretary to Lahore Board, Settlement Officers, Deputy Commissioners in the Punjab, Sec., &c., ... ..		23	× 1,000	= 38,000	× 12	= 4,56,000	13,650
<i>Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, 2nd Grade.</i>							
Including 1 Visitor General of Ferozabad, 8 Assistant Deputy Magistrates and 8 Assistants, 1st Grade in the Punjab, ... ..		25	× 700	= 17,500	× 12	= 2,10,000	6,300
<i>Assistants.</i>							
Including Assistants of the 3d and 3d Grade in the Punjab, and Assistants in the N. W. Provinces, ... ..		45	× 400	= 18,000	× 12	= 2,16,000	6,480
Total Annual Deductions from Salaries, for the North Western Provinces, ... ..		...	...	...	...	...	78,820
Add Interest on Monthly 3 per Cent. Deductions from salaries, amounting to Rs. 6307-8 per mensem, at 5 per Cent. per annum for one year, ... ..		...	...	...	...	...	2,946
						77,792	77,792
						Multiply by 2	1,55,474
Total 3 per Cent. Deductions, including Interest, for the North Western Provinces, and Bengal, ... ..		...	...	...	...	...	Rs. 1,55,474
Add difference of the Salaries of two grades to be paid on promotion monthly for six months.							

...	... to be sold.	... price per day.	... for bath.	... of the.	... for months.
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Officers.		No. present.	Difference of attendance.	Total attendance.	No. absent.	Total absence.
Magistrates and Collectors,	...	10	250	2,500	6	15,000
1st Grade Joint Magistrates and Deputy Collectors,	...	10	1,320	13,200	6	75,000
2d Grade Joint Magistrates and Deputy Collectors,	...	10	300	3,000	6	18,000
Assistants,	...	10	500	5,000	6	18,000
Total.				28,147	126,000	

20. The above does not include any subscriptions on account of a difference of salaries to be paid by parties obtaining promotion from the occurrence of Furlough, or death vacancies, nor 3 per cent. deductions from acting allowances—to inconsiderable sum—which, if taken into calculation, would probably swell the income of the Fund to very large amounts. The Government are now proposing to grant a Bonus, to the extent proposed, being offered to each of 10 subscriber annuists.

37. In all likelihood, however, for the first few years, not more than 4 or 5 perhaps 6 Bonus Fund Subscribers would have the opportunity afforded them of retiring on a Bonus, as the old hands would probably take the remaining annuities, in which case the unappropriated funds would grow to a considerable size. It is also possible that some persons, probably either of the annuitants or subscribers and monthly deductions from salaries being lowered, or of the amount of Bonus being increased.

23. Subscription to the Fund should not be compulsory for a longer period than five years at a time, after which those, who pleased, should be allowed to withdraw from it, receiving, of course, no refund of their subscriptions.

29. At the end of every five years, the Rules of the Fund, and the scale of subscriptions to it, should be revised with the view to such modification or alteration of them as might appear necessary in order to adapt them to the then condition of the Service, and the State of the Funds finances.

30. Now, *Friends*, I have said my say, and I beg, in conclusion, to urge on your notice, and that of all my brethren (Travellers, the necessity for adopting *immediate*, and vigorous measures for the establishment of the Fund, so that, possible, it may come into operation from 1st of the coming year 1850.

31. Let not meetings be convened, or such like absurdities, tending only to waste time, be thought of, but let who feel disposed, generally, to support my plan, send their names for publication to the Editor of the *Delhi Gazette* or *Friend of India*, who, I feel sure, will oblige the members of the Service by affording them a little space

32. When a sufficient number of men have signified their intention to subscribe in the manner proposed, I will then call on the members of the late Committee in Calcutta, who will be requested to contribute to the same.

so ably revised our Annuity Fund Rules be requested to draw out, and submit for the approval of the Majority of the subscribers, a set of Rules for the Bonus Fund, and take such steps as may appear necessary to complete the establishment of the Fund, and set it in full operation by the 1st January 1862.

33. All we want is to make a beginning, and there is no time to be lost.

BOMBASTIC.

*Proceedings of a Meeting of the Members of the Military Fund, held at Grosvenor, on the 10th of September, by permission of the Brigadier Commanding the Station, to consider the Reply of the Directors to the Proceedings of the Meeting of the 18th June, 1851.*

*Present.*

Lieutenant Col. Mackenzie.	Major Shuldham.
Major Gray.	Captain Bagshaw.
Captain Norgate.	Dr. Mawe.
Dr. Hodgson.	Lieutenant Best.
Lieut. Drummond.	Lieut. Rain.
Lieut. Hathorn.	W. P. McDermott, Esq.
Eusign McDonald.	Hon. Lieut. Chichester.
Major Cautley.	Captain Austen.

Major Shuldham was unanimously called to the chair.

The replies of the Directors having been read, together with our former Proceedings, it was proposed by Col. Mackenzie, and seconded by Captain Barclay.

1st. That as it appears, that the provisions of Art. 39 of the Rules, were actually observed in regard to public notice, the Calcutta papers, this Meeting is desirous to express its regret that from being totally unaware of any such publication, the former Meeting should unwiltingly have failed the Directors unduly.

Proposed by Captain Norgate, and seconded by Major

2nd. That the object of Article 39, being to afford sufficient notice to the Members generally of all propositions, the present case plainly shows that publication in the Calcutta daily papers, is in the altered circumstances of their position, practically useless to a large proportion of the Members, there being about 90,000 of the paper in Srinagar and the Panjabs, and scarcely 25,000 regulars below Boreas, the urgent necessity of publication also in the Mofussil papers as voted at the former Meeting is manifest, and that a letter in due form, signed by not less than twelve Members, be transmitted to the Directors requesting that proposition three of the Meeting of 18th June, be specifically laid before the Special Meeting for the modification of the rules required in the letter of the 4th of August. Carried unopposedly.

Proposed by Major Cautley, and seconded by Lieutenant Drummond.

3rd. That in order to show that Members at other stations, very generally concur with us, the communications numerously signed, received from eight stations in the Panjab, be forwarded to the Directors; and as we have reason to believe that from the lower stations many others of a similar tenor have been sent to Calcutta direct, this Meeting trusts that the Directors will feel the propriety of ensuring to the remote stations sufficient intimation being actually received of the Special Meeting requested in our previous communications.

Carried unanimously.  
Proposed by the Honorable Lieutenant Chichester, and  
seconded by Dr. Hodgson.

4. That this Meeting cannot but express their regret that in the letters No. 774 and 799 of 19th and 27th August, the Directors should have limited their reply to the 1st proposition of our Meeting of 18th June, and entirely omitted to notice the other and more important points of our communications.

Proposed by Lieut. Hathorn and seconded by Captain Austen.

5. That the replies of the Directors, together with the present Proceedings be published in the newspapers.  
Carried unanimously.

T. H. SHULDHAM, Major,  
52d Regt. N I., Chairman

The thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted  
the President.

From the Offy. Secretary, Military Fund, to Lieut. Col. K. P. Mackenzie, Chairman to the Meeting of Subscribers, Ferozepore, dated Fort William, 29th August

1851.  
Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 4th August, and also your former communication of 20th June. That of 20th June, with the Proceedings of the Meeting was immediately on receipt laid before the Directors, and their instructions requested relative to reply, an unavoidable delay has however occurred in forwarding the explanation requested. The subject is still before the Directors, whose final instructions shall be communicated without delay.

I have, &c. &c.  
(Signed) G. H. JENKINS.  
Offy. Secy. Mily. Force  
(True Copy.)  
H. SHULDRAN, Major





1 Old Court House Street, Calcutta.







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# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 3d of the ensuing month of November for the departure of the next Steamer therefrom, with a Mail for India, notice is hereby given, for general information, that the above date, which may be delayed for convenience, by a stormy season, will be the date of departure, and that the effect of the Order of the Government, in relation to the despatch from this Office, on Tuesday, the 25th, is hereby notified.

**NOTICE.**—The Public are hereby informed, that the Calcutta Letter, Mail of the 5th August has, for the Station of Bengalour, was left by the steamer of the Indus Boat near Lochindole.  
J. H. BENTINCK DEPUTY  
Genl. Post Office, 14th October, 1861.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the Friend of India begs to acknowledge the following Donation:  
From Leeward, Co. N. No. 50, to the fund for the building of the New Sailor's Home.

**THE REMOVAL OF THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT,** which has been a fruitful topic of discussion for the last fifteen years,—in fact ever since Lord William Bentinck pronounced the memorable words, India must get rid of Simlah, or Simlah will get rid of India,—has been again alluded to by the *Lokere Chronicle* in an article which will be found among our selections. On this occasion, the question assumes some importance from the assurance which that journal so confidently gives, that this great and organic change in the constitution of the Indian Government has been urged by Lord Dalhousie on the Home authorities with great earnestness. It is difficult, however, to suppose that his Lordship can have seriously contemplated a change which must so materially and so injuriously affect the efficiency of the administration, and it does not therefore appear necessary to bestow more than a passing notice on the matter at present. The Journalists of the North West Provinces have been erroneously led to suppose that the "outcry," as they term it, which has been raised against this measure by the Press of Calcutta, arises from motives which wear the appearance of self-interest, and which have reference to the mortification which would be created by the removal of the seat of Government from Calcutta. But this is a very unfounded supposition. Practically speaking, the seat of the Government has not been in Calcutta for more than five years out of the seventeen, which have elapsed since the Charter Act was passed. The Governor General, invested with the full executive powers of Government, has been residing far beyond the limits of this Presidency, and the business of the Council down here has been chiefly to record his decisions, and occasionally to offer advice. What we require in Calcutta, and for Bengal, is a Governor of our own, unconnected with the Supreme Council, and clothed with sufficient authority to promote the interests of this Province. With such a Governor, residing eight months of the year in Calcutta, and passing four months in visiting the interior, seeing with his own eyes, hearing with his own ears, and deciding according to his own judgment, it must be a matter of perfect indifference to us whether the Supreme Government be at Bombay, or Agra, or Simlah, or Bhowanur, or even at Cashmere, never that Kingdom may be annexed to this em-

pire. It is the general Government of India which would suffer most severely from the removal of its head quarters to a mountain eyrie in the North West corner of this vast empire. Two thousand six hundred miles from its most southern station. The inconvenience which would be created on the interests of India by the removal of the seat of the Governor General, and the members of Council and the House, Foreign, and Financial Secretaries, and their establishments, in the Hills, may be at once understood by any one, who will picture to himself the removal of the Privy Council and the various offices of Government from London to Balaoral. Calcutta, at the estuary of a hundred rivers, the commercial capital of the whole of the Gangetic valley, the emporium of the manufactures of England, and of the produce of a Presidency a thousand miles in length, and the seat of numerous Institutions and Companies, would scarcely feel the loss of a dozen Civilian, and two hundred Assistants. The vacuum would soon be filled up, and in five or six years, there would not be one carrying the less on the course. But, in a legislative point of view, the removal of the Supreme Council to a small station composed only of official men, and invalids, and loungers, would be most disastrous. Our laws ought unquestionably to be prepared and enacted under the influence of the largest, and most intelligent, and most independent Anglo Saxon community in India, and that community exists only in Calcutta. Moreover, after Parliament has invested the Legislative Council of India with power to regulate the decisions of all Courts, Queen's as well as Company's, it has become next to impossible for the Council to legislate judiciously and effectually a thousand miles from all communication with any of the Supreme Courts.

Calcutta has been the metropolis of a growing empire for the last seventy years, and it must, we think, inevitably maintain this character, just in the same manner as London continues to be the capital of Great Britain, though Wales and Scotland and Ireland have been added to the United Kingdom, since that city became the seat of Government. Besides, it must not be forgotten, that the British empire in India, was administered from Calcutta as the Head Quarters of the Government for many years, with perfect ease, and without any inconvenience; it is only since the establishment of a Sanatarium at Simlah, in a cool, and inviting climate, and since that place has become the Caput of the Presidency, that the removal of the seat of Government to it has been mooted. Simlah is unquestionably a more agreeable residence than Calcutta during seven months of the year, yet it is an incontrovertible fact that no Governor General ever died of the heat of the plains, or even of Bengal, before it was discovered. Neither Lord Cornwallis, nor Lord Wellesley, nor Lord Minto, nor Lord Hastings, nor Lord Amherst ever deemed it necessary to seek a cooler climate than Bengal or the North West Provinces, to enable them to conduct efficiently the affairs of this empire. Lord Dalhousie's residence at Simlah, though a source of inconvenience to the rest of the empire, has been rendered in a great measure advisable by the unsettled state of the Punjab,

to which his attention has been most sedulously directed. However we may regret his absence, we must not forget the benefits which have arisen from the position he took up in the immediate vicinity of that newly conquered province, filled with a warlike and turbulent population. But it would appear that this argument, which is by far the most cogent which could be adduced for the residence of the Governor General at Simlah, and the consequent necessity for the Council and the Secretariat Staff of the Government of India to join him, has been almost entirely removed by the peaceful settlement of the Punjab. According to the *Chronicle*, the pacification of this kingdom is now so complete, that the Governor General no longer considers it necessary to maintain a separate administration for its affairs, but is enabled to recommend its annexation to the Government of the North West Provinces. For the removal of the seat of Government to Simlah, there remains, therefore, only the argument of its agreeable climate, which will, however, scarcely be sufficient to out-weight the fact, that even in the hot and sultry atmosphere of Calcutta, we have not lost one member of Council, or one of the Secretaries of Government by death, from the beginning of the year 1800 to the end of 1850, and but one Governor General, and he came out at an advanced age and with a shattered constitution.

**THE RAIL ROAD TO THE COLLIERIES.**—The papers have recently been filled with discussions arising out of the line chosen for the Rail, and of the temporary terminus which has been selected for it at Ranegunge. The great importance of the question fully justifies the earnestness with which it has been treated. We published a brief article on the subject a fortnight ago, written on a cursory view of the matter; and we now return to it after a more leisurely and careful investigation. We learn that there is no foundation whatever for the surmise, that there has been some defection from the line originally contemplated; which line was selected exclusively in reference to the advantages it presented, and the difficulties it avoided, in an engineering point of view. The objection which has been raised to the present plan of the Railway officers, is, that the Rail will give peculiar and invidious advantages to the Bengal Coal Company, by its terminating at their head quarters at Ranegunge. But with the map before us, drawn up by the late Mr. Williams, and the locality of the various collieries dotted upon it, it is easy to perceive that even if the original suggestion of Mr. Turnbull had been adhered to, that of carrying the Rail on to Aunsenole, it must still have passed within a mile of Ranegunge. Some have proposed, we think, that the line should pass a little more towards the north, but the Noonies river, and the more difficult gradients which must then have been encountered, appear to have rendered this unadvisable. And, as the Engineers cannot for a moment be supposed to have any predilection for one Coal Association more than for another, we are bound to admit that their determination has been conscientiously and honorably regulated by a reference only to the interests of the Rail itself. If the difficulties of the Noonies river and of the ground about it, are

granted, we shall find that the present line is nearly as central as any that could have been chosen. At all events, it is certain, that the other coal Companies will have less distance to cart their produce to the Rail, than at present in carting it to the Damoodah.

The present discussions have arisen out of the dread, which is so generally felt throughout the Coal districts, of the Bengal Coal Company, who are said to have spared no pains or expense to obtain possession of the approaches to the Railway, just as they have heretofore obtained control over the approaches to the Damoodah river. That Company—we speak, of course, of times that are past and not of its present management—has been the most overbearing and unscrupulous of any Association ever established in Bengal. To secure to itself the monopoly of the Coal trade, its agents in former days never hesitated to perpetrate the most daring acts of oppression. It was the constant terror of all its competitors, and neighbours. Even the public authorities of the district were powerless before its agents, till a separate Magistracy was established at Mungulpore. The proprietors of other collieries, have evidently a dread of the revival of past scenes, and they look with dismay at any supposed advantage which the selection of Raneegunge as the terminus of the Rail may confer on so powerful an association. But we believe that the spirit which once gave birth to those outrages, no longer pervades the Proprietors, Directors, or Agents of the Association; the establishment of the Rail, moreover, will bring the district under the immediate eye of Government, and give protection and security to all parties. The influence which that Company enjoys from its long establishment, its spirit of enterprise, and its resources, will naturally give it advantages with which Government cannot and ought not to interfere. But we consider that the great benefit which the Rail Road is designed to confer on the country, is that of rendering it impossible to establish a monopoly of what is as it has been the constant aim of the Bengal Coal Company to secure. There can, therefore, be no hesitation, whatever, in saying that if the mineral branch of the Rail should in any way promote the design of such a monopoly, or throw the slightest impediment in the way of competition; nay, if it should not open the market, and create greater facilities for other parties to work the extensive coal fields of the district, it would be far better to give up the enterprise at once, than to expend fifty or sixty lakhs of public money in rendering coal dearer, by throwing the supply into the hands of a single body. It behoves Government most carefully to examine the representations which are made by the competitors of the Bengal Coal Company, to weigh with impartiality all the objections they bring, and to provide at once, and most unequivocally against the possibility of any Company's obtaining possession of the approaches to the line, and shutting out rivals. The Railway authorities should possess the power, under the direction of Government, of sanctioning, or of opening roads for the convenience of the distant collieries, through all lands, whether belonging to the Bengal Coal Company or to others.

The advantage which it is stated that this Company will enjoy in reference to the Rail way, appears to us to consist in this, that the line will be in the vicinity of its head quarters. But it must be evident that if the line were extended ten or twenty miles farther, the advantage to the Raneegunge colliery would be the same, because the Rail must still have a station

in that locality. We stated in our former article, that the terminus at Raneegunge was only temporary, and that it was the intention of the Company to carry the Rail to a farther distance. But upon a farther examination of the question, we feel convinced that the Company will not be able to fulfil its intentions, if they are postponed to another period, and that if the Rail once stops at Raneegunge, it will stop there for ever. The reason for selecting this spot as the terminus, for the present, appears to be that the funds allotted for the experimental line, that is, the Million sterling, will not pay for a farther extension of the line. Such at least is the information which we gather from sources on which we are able to place confidence. To carry the line, as originally contemplated, to the junction of the Barakar and the Coal Raneegunge, would cost, at the very least, Fifteen lakhs of Rupees, and as the Court of Directors have been earnestly solicited to give up the direct line to Mirzapore, and to turn off the Rail a little above Burdwan to Rajmahal, and along the banks of the Ganges to Mirzapore, which they are very likely to agree to—it is highly improbable, that they will allow so large a sum to be expended in prolonging the "experimental" line after it has been apparently completed. We feel certain, therefore, that unless the present operation of the Rail embraces the whole line to the junction of the two rivers, the Burdwan Rail will never extend beyond Raneegunge. It must be prolonged now or never.

But there is another question, not altogether unworthy the consideration of Government at the time when it is about to sanction an outlay of sixty or seventy lakhs of Rupees. Beyond Pundoo, the line of Rail is entirely a Mineral line, and has no other object than to facilitate the conveyance of coal to the metropolis. But it is well known that the coal which lies west of Raneegunge, is superior to any which is to be found at that colliery and in its vicinity, while the very best coal in the district is that of the quarries beyond the Barakar. It appears strange, therefore, that the Rail designed exclusively to improve the supply of Coal in Calcutta, should stop short just at the point beyond which the most excellent specimens of that mineral have been discovered, and that it should be employed simply in bringing an inferior article to Calcutta, at a price little less than that for which it can be conveyed at present by the river. The line should evidently be extended to those fields where the most superior coal is to be obtained, and it ought, therefore, both on this ground, as well as on that of avoiding the possibility of strengthening a monopoly, to be at once pushed forward to the junction of the two rivers.

**THE EXCLUSION OF LOW CASTE SOLDIERS FROM THE ARMY.**—We had occasion a fortnight ago, to review the pamphlet published by a Bombay officer, on the defects of the army of Bengal, one of the most prominent of which was described to be the fastidious distinctions of caste, which had been so scrupulously and so injudiciously maintained in its ranks. By a singular coincidence, a General Order from the Commander-in-Chief was published to the army, immediately on the back of our remarks, which completely corroborated the statement of the Bombay pamphlet, and exhibited this defect of our system in all its deformity. His Excellency announced that several men of low caste, who had surreptitiously obtained admission to the Regi-

ment, should be immediately paid up and discharged, as not belonging to those castes which were alone allowed, by the military regulations, to obtain enlistment. The order is of course in accordance with the rules of the service, and cannot therefore be dispensed with as long as they continue to be part and parcel of our military code. The blame of this preposterous anomaly rests on the door of those who originally allowed themselves to be humbugged—we cannot find a fitter expression—by the haughty and unreasonable prejudices of the Brahmans, when they enlisted. We question whether there were ten Brahmans in our ranks at the battle of Plassey; but, when our countrymen had obtained a complete ascendancy in the country, they unfortunately allowed themselves to become orientalised, and this lost to a great extent the virtues of Christian principle, and Roman resolution, and yielded themselves up a willing prey to the ridiculous pretensions of those under their control. That no such regulation as that which has now expelled from the army seven men, for being inferior, not in military efficiency, but in birth, was requisite to accommodate the natives, and attract the best and bravest men to our standard, is abundantly proved by the fact that in the Bombay Army, the high caste Brahman and the low caste coolie, are found fighting, shoulder to shoulder, without the slightest hesitation. The men, who have now been banished from the Bengal Army, will proceed to Bombay, where they will be most cheerfully welcomed into the ranks of its army, and find themselves in an aristocratic company as that which they have now been obliged so abruptly to quit.—But after so many years of weak compliance with the prejudices of the Brahman sepoys, it is much easier to lament the evil, than to discover a remedy for it.

**THE BRAHMANS AND THE PARIAH.**—The *Esaminer* in a late article, written with the bitterness for which that journal was once so conspicuous, compared the Christian Bishops with the Hindoo Brahmans; with rather more wit, however, than justice. He might have exclaimed his simile farther, had he been acquainted with the position of the University of Madras, which is now in a state of intense excitement at the admission of a Pariah to its privileges. It appears that in the original constitution of the Madras University, there is a clause which provides that "members of all creeds and sects shall be admissible; consistently with which primary object, care shall be taken to avoid whatever may tend to violate or offend the religious feelings of any class." The *Esaminer* of the Medical School lately found that the proposal of certain of his pupils was much delayed by their want of a competent knowledge of English, and he accordingly requested Government to admit them into the High School. The order was passed, and the boys admitted, but unfortunately one of them was a Pariah. The whole School was instantly in a state of frenzy, only to be compared to that of the House of Commons upon the intrusion of a Jew within the sacred precincts of a Christian Legislature, and the young twice-born immediately submitted a modest request to the Board of Education that he should be expelled. As the Board considered that a parcel of school boys might be better employed than in writing remonstrances on to Madras system of education, though entirely by distinctions on Caste, they paid no attention to the application. It was then reported by their parents, and the two native governors, Raneegundam Shastree and Steenevansa Fuley belong

to the progressive party, and the latter especially is well known in Madras for his liberality, and for his exertions as Chairman of the trustees of Pachappah's fund, about which there was so much discussion a few months ago. As usual, however, the feeling of the Brahmins has conquered that of the liberal, for no generosity of sentiment can eradicate the deep rooted detestation of the twice-born for a Pariah. Their resignation has left the Council without Quorum, and thus compelled the Government to interfere, while the Brahmins, on the other hand, Phillips, Chetty, and Sadasivayya, as the *Madras Athenaeum* styles them, threaten to abandon the school.

The enmity in the Calcutta Madrassa was nothing to this, but we hope the same firmness will be shown in both cases, and the result will be equally successful. The opposition to the admission of the Pariah might be regarded as arising from a strong religious prejudice, were it not that Christian boys have been educated with the Brahmins from the foundation of the school, and the pollution of the mela's presence is as great as that of the Pariah's. The feeling, therefore, is neither more or less than that of a haughty contempt for an inferior class. To such a sentiment the Government can never yield, even were it not diametrically opposed to the principles upon which it has always acted. The public authorities must resolute firm in their resolution to give education to all classes, sects, and creeds, who are otherwise qualified to receive it, and the mutineers will either consent to study the "use of the globe" with a Pariah pointing out the eclipse, or retire to a school suddenly founded by religious zeal, to be hereafter as suddenly abandoned, as all such attempts have hitherto been in all parts of India. Even in Bengal, though the great numerical strength of the Brahmins, and their social position, has secured to them a great preponderance of numbers in our Colleges, we have never experienced any thing like this. The most orthodox of old Hindoos has never yet ventured to affirm, that a Mookjeeva or a Chatterjee should not enter a College contaminated by the presence of a weaver, an oilseller, or a carpenter, and even in that sanctum sanctorum of Hindoos, the Sanscrit College, no opposition was offered to the late reform which admitted the inferior castes to the study of the sacred language of the Vedas. That this improvement results from the known determination of the Authorities, and not from any freedom from bigotry, may be seen from the occurrences which have taken place at Nuddea, and which we now record as a singular instance of Hindoo intolerance.

Nuddea, as some of our readers may perhaps need to be informed, is the Oxford of Bengal, the paradise of pundits. There they are employed in studying the eternal complexities of the Sanscrit grammar, taught on a system which makes its acquisition the labour of years, and there they receive diplomas, corresponding with those of Oxford, or rather perhaps of the German Universities. The long series of *Trikulankars*, (Doctor of Logic), *Nyalankars* (L.L.D.) and similar titles fulfil in Bengal the same office as those degrees in England. The brahmins, and there settle every rite, and every ceremony, and decide upon the orthodox number of beads in a mala, or the exact grade below which no Brahmin may venture to pay a professional visit. They toil not, neither do they spin, but are maintained by the contributions of the great Hindoo gentry, given partly in the shape of an annual donation, and partly by invitations to religious ceremonies, always accompanied by gifts. There dwells in Calcutta, a rich widow, Rasmoney

Dassee, or Rasmoney Chowdranee, as she is called by her flatterers, who is not only the wealthiest but the most pious female in Calcutta, and whose wealth and piety have been lately attested by the erection of a magnificent temple on the banks of the Hooghly, nearly midway between Calcutta and Barrackpore, just opposite the Ball bridge. She is, however, by caste a Koolbarta, and, therefore, very low in the social scale. In a luckless hour, the pundits of Nuddea accepted a valuable gift from her, and, in the next, it was of course fully repaid. The Raja Chatterjee, in consequence of their having degraded themselves by the acceptance of a gift from such an individual, though ten times as wealthy as himself, or perhaps at their having accepted it without his permission, refused to invite them to a ceremony of giving the first rice to his grandson. This was tantamount to a sentence of excommunication, and the pundits met in great numbers to discuss the propriety of appealing to the Government for protection. Information of the circumstance was instantly forwarded to Calcutta, and the heads of parties resolved to support the Raja. The pundits were informed that the annual allowance was stopped, that they would receive no more invitations: in short, that they were deprived of their bread; and letters were at the same time sent in every direction to make their exclusion complete and universal. The Calcutta Baboos, however, add, with a compassionate civility like that of the Holy Office, that "if the Pundits will purify themselves according to the Mantras, and exhibit a letter of forgiveness under the seal of the Raja, it is still in their power to exchange wrath for favour." Bengal is not, after all, so very different from Madras.

CANTON.—Nearly six months ago, we ventured on a prediction that the rebellion then raging in the Southern Provinces of China, would seriously impair the power of the Tartar dynasty, and in all human probability dismember their vast empire, and every succeeding account of the movement confirms the justice of our views. By the latest intelligence we learn that the insurgent leader, Tien-tseh, is completely master of the great province of Kwangsi, which he has made his head quarters, and that the whole body of the people in Canton, with the exception of a few officials, are ready to rise in his favour. Not only do his followers come off victorious in every engagement, but his enemies fight his battles, and every movement of the Tartar forces betrays both their consciousness of acting amidst a hostile population, and the utter incapacity and irresolution of their leaders. More than this, recent engagements have, it is said, completely destroyed the prestige of Tartar valour, which had for many years restrained the Chinese malcontents, and which was at one time not without its influence even among Englishmen. The "Chinese have quite disabused themselves of the idea that Tartar Generals possess greater courage than the people of their own race" and as the latter are the preponderance of a thousand to one, the Tartar rule exists only by Chinese sufferance. *Seu*, the incapable Governor of Canton, had at length been induced by the approach of the rebels, and by the positive orders of the Emperor, to leave the city, and he quitted it on the 25th July, leaving behind him a garrison of only 2000 men of all arms, utterly incapable of controlling the turbulent Chinese population in the event of any serious demonstration. The occupation of the neighbouring districts by the rebel force, and the general insecurity which prevailed, had

dried up the sources of revenue, and *Seu* found himself constrained to demand a contribution from the landholders equal to three months' advance on the land tax, a step which, as might be expected, did not tend to increase his popularity.

Meanwhile, a considerable force, collected in his own province, had entered Kwangsi, and Tien-tseh seems to have thought it scarcely worth while to offer them any serious resistance. As long as they remained passive, their supplies were limited only by their power of paying for them, but for instant they proceeded to active hostility, Tien-tseh issued an order, prohibiting the people from selling them rice, and the order was obeyed. As an ordinary Chinese is nearly as eager in the acquisition of gain as a Bengalee, the complete refusal of a third of this command, while an invading army was in the midst of them, is the strongest proof that Tien-tseh is really supported by the people, and that the struggle is no longer between a rebel and his sovereign, but between the native Chinese and their Tartar conquerors. There may be some exaggeration in the native account, that the order was so literally obeyed that many of the troops of Canton perished of starvation, but it is certain that they were broken and defeated. The following letter, which is said to have been received by *Seu*, shows how accurately the Chinese have estimated both his character and his resources:

"Having heard that your Excellency has brought troops to subjugate and exterminate us, how will you escape for a single day?—You dare not come to fight us, you manifestly without power and without courage, having set your troops in order, and on the point of action, you are afraid and confused. If you really believe in your own strength and riches, in the midst of absolute weakness, and think you are adequate to sustain a single battle, then appoint an early day for the fight, that it may be at once decided who shall win or lose, and thereby save the soldiers from certain destruction." These facts are gathered from Chinese letters, published in the *Friend of China*, and they add—and the statement is confirmed by European writers—that Canton itself will shortly be in the hands of the insurgents, in which case the supply of grain for Peking will be speedily cut off. Should the Mandarins then yield to circumstances, and make their submission to the new Emperor, the Cabinet of Peking will have but two resources left. They must either assemble an army from the bolder and ruder tribes of the North Western Provinces, and reconquer the South as completely as their forefathers did two hundred years ago, or call upon the "outside barbarians" for assistance. The latter contingency is by no means improbable, if, as is reported, Tien-tseh is resolved to earn the favor of the Canton mob by a summary expulsion of the foreigners. He may even make a bold stroke for popularity by licensing the opium cultivation, and in either case it might be necessary to support "legitimate authority" by British cannon.

CONNECTION OF THE CAYLON GOVERNMENT WITH IDOLATRY.—The Government of India has just been compelled by the force of public opinion at home to pledge itself to break off all connection with idolatry, at its earliest convenience, and the Government of Ceylon, after having gravely and formally closed the connection three years ago, has with equal formality, resumed it. Notwithstanding the great promise of Sir George Anderson's reign, the great improvements already effected, and the still greater which are said to be in store, the colonists have

found a grievance, and as far as we can judge, a substantial one. Unfortunately, the *Times* is so violent, that it is scarcely possible to ascertain the real facts of the case; and it is not rendered more intelligible by the *Observer*, from his being, in this instance, partially at least, an apologist for the innovation. It appears that the Government of Ceylon, like all our Governments in the East, formerly took the place of the native dynasty which it displaced, with respect to idolatrous affairs, and assumed the duty of appointing priests and temple officers, of issuing funds to defray the expense of their ceremonies, and of guarding the relic of Buddha, the sacred tooth. In 1847, according to an official letter of Sir Emerson Tennant, the connection of the State with idolatry in all these particulars was formally dissolved, and the statement is repeated by the Governor, and acknowledged by Lord Grey in the following emphatic sentence:—"as a question of principle, the open and recognised severance of the British Government from all participation in the outward practices of Buddhism, proclaimed and completed by the measures of last year, calls for a distinct expression of my approval." This is strong language, but, in spite of it, the present Governor has, it is said, revived the practice of appointing the priests. The arguments put forward in defence of this measure refer chiefly to the tenure of the temple property, which, cannot, it is said, be administered by the priests, unless they receive their appointments from the Government. But this reason must have been just as valid three years ago, when the nominations were discontinued, and, as observed by a temperate correspondent of the *Times*, nothing would be easier than to frame a Legislative Act, giving the priests a legal right to manage their own possessions. Already, according to one writer, the Government appointment has enabled the Dewales to resume their system of oppression on their estates,—a statement we in India can easily believe—and to adorn their temples by forced labour.

This question may seem but a trifling one, and altogether beyond our province, but it involves a principle for which we have been contending for years, viz. that while the British Governments in the East are bound to protect the various religions under their rule, they should connect and identify themselves with none.

**CALCUTTA CONSERVANCY.**—The report of this body for the half year ending July 31st, 1881, is now before the public, and the only satisfaction which can be derived from its perusal, is the well grounded hope that it will be the last they ever offer to the world. The Commissioners are evidently disgusted with the small return of their thankless labours, and have entrusted the drawing up of their last report to some one whose acquaintance with the grossness of composition is exceedingly limited. Six small pages are considered sufficient for an analysis of the labours of six months, and six worse written pages we never saw, except, perhaps, in Captain Crip's nautical pamphlets. The Commissioners have, as usual, done all that was in their power, which, as far as regards the improvement of the town, is really *nil*. But we must not do them an act of injustice. They have added no fewer than twelve lamps to the few stray and feeble glimmerings which at present enlighten the darkness of Calcutta, and have completed a lighting contract for three years. They have also commenced working the Chandpal Engine themselves, and have adopted several

hints given them by Col. Forbes—the only person who ever appears to contemplate the possibility of practical improvement—concerning the construction of the machine. They complain that the scavenging portion of their functions cannot be efficiently performed, while the "most respectable inhabitants" continue to heap rubbish before their doors, and they have urgently called the attention of the householders to the nuisance, by means of a printed circular. They have tinkered a few roads, cleaned a few drains, and, in short, done every thing that want of funds, want of system, and public apathy, if not antipathy, will allow them to do, to prove that the Conservancy Commission exists only in name.

For all that they have done, and all that they have left undone, the Commissioners have one stereotyped excuse,—the want of funds. They have not indeed said any thing on that score this year, partly because their income has been a little improved, and partly because they feel the utter hopelessness of appeal, or remonstrance, but the fact remains the same. The gross municipal revenue of the first city in Asia, for the half year, amounted to Rs. 1,81,252,—equivalent to about one rupee a head on the population—to which must be added Rs. 10,871 which remained from the operations of the last six months. The disbursements amounted only to Rs. 1,98,129, the Commissioners having retained in their hands the sum of 31,685, to meet the expenses of repairing the roads, the season for which is just approaching. The payment of the carriage tax has, it appears, been stoutly resisted by those great patriots, the bullock drivers, and the outstanding balance on the 1st of January was 40,141 Rs. The larger proportion of this sum is irrecoverable, because these mercenary drivers change their names and places of abode, with a celerity which baffles the most astute tax-gatherer. The upper classes have, however, paid their tax with exemplary regularity, under a new system by which the collectors personally benefit from the amount they receive. The collections for the half year have amounted to Rs. 39,551 against Rs. 10,360 for the preceding six months. We think the exhibition of this fact should make Government pause before it sweeps away the carriage tax, and the revenue which it produces. Calcutta is not so rich in municipal resources that it can afford to throw away seventy thousand rupees obtained by an impost which, after all, is certainly sound in principle, inasmuch as the vehicles which destroy the road ought to be compelled to repair it, and which, moreover, is paid almost entirely by the weaker classes. If there really exists any insuperable obstacle to levying the tax from the bullock drivers, let those gentlemen remain exempt, for the present at least, while Mr. Jackson renders his hoped for Act so *packis* as to baffle both the astuteness of Mr. Biddle, and the authority of the Supreme Court.

We are weary of protesting against the continued neglect of the affairs of Calcutta by the Supreme Government, to which alone we can look for a reform, but we still venture to indulge a faint hope, that Mr. Jackson may at length hammer into shape the Municipal Act, which has been so long on the Legislative anvil. We want an Act, which shall create a body of men, not only responsible for the care of the city, but who will also take a pride in rendering Calcutta a little more clean than when the adjutant-birds were her only scavengers, and a little more progressive than when Mr. Horwell was her Zemindar. That the new Act will break down, or prove impotently, it we fear, to be expected,—all divided responsibility fails in the

East,—but it will, at least, be a little better than the organized *laines foire* which is at present the order of the day.

**THE CAOPS.**—The rainy season which is now drawing to a close, is the most remarkable for the scanty supply of rain, which we have experienced in this part of the country for a quarter of a century. The districts lying to the East of Bengal are said to have enjoyed their usual abundance of showers, but the districts of the West, Midnapore, the 21 Pargunnahs, Hooghly, Burdwan, and Beerbhoom, have been almost without rain. The consequence is, that the crops have failed to the extent of thirty, forty, and in some places, fifty per cent, the tanks are only a quarter full, and will be completely dry by the month of January, and the inhabitants have no prospect before them but the utmost extremity of distress. Dacotally always increases with scarcity, and the Magistrates expect that the next season or six months will be to them a period of intense anxiety and labor. The scarcity of rain appears to have been felt with peculiar severity in the district of Burdwan, where the rice fields are covered with stunted and empty stalks, and the hope of man has failed. In this season of dearth, the operations of the Mail, which will afford employment to ten or twenty thousand laborers, and disperse lakhs of rupees through the district, may be considered as a real God send. Nothing indeed could be more opportune, or Providential, than the coincidence of this great and prolific undertaking with a season of such unexampled scarcity. There will be no want of laborers for the embankment which is to be carried through the length of the district, and little lack of food for the agricultural peasantry. If the contractors are enabled to commence operations early in the ensuing cold season, they ought to be completed before the commencement of the rains.

The last three or four days have given us a few showers, which have in some measure revived the crops, but the rain has not been sufficiently copious to give the fields a deposit of an inch or two of water, and to bring on the corn to maturity. In many parts of the country, even the most abundant descent of rain would come too late.

**CHUBB'S LOCKS.**—The announcement given by the previous mail, that an American had appeared in London, and destroyed all confidence in Chubb's locks by opening one of them and then closing it again without the aid of their key, created a variety of speculations as to the possibility of maintaining secrecy in future. We considered Mr. Doria's Secretariat box with all the financial secrets of Government, as no longer secure. When, moreover, we heard that the Conscript Fathers of the Bengal Orphan Society had met in solemn convulsion to discuss by what means the Post Office Report had been tampered, we naturally concluded that it had been placed under the guardianship of one of Chubb's locks, and that it must have been abstracted by some such contrivance as that which had been practised with so much success by Hobbs in London. We thought it any thing but discreet that Government should manifest such extreme sensitiveness on such a matter as the rather irregular publication of a Report which ought to have been regularly open to the public, and should take such special pains to confirm the general opinion that it was a Government of Secrecy,—we did not blame the door of Chubb's patent, and we said of one of the members of Council; but here is Mr. Chubb himself coming for





























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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA ROMANY.**  
The Government of Bombay having specified the 2d of the ensuing month of November for the departure of the **next steamer** hereafter, with a Mail for **Spain**. Notice is hereby given, for general information, that the **certificates** for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intrusted for conveyance by that opportunity, will be **received** by the 22d instant, and that the **first** of the Overland Packets will be closed at, and despatched from this Office, on Tuesday, the 22d inst.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDOSTAN," DIRECT FOR CALCUTTA.**

Notice is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for **Spain**, and the **intermediate** Port, **Naples**, **Ceylon**, **Aden**, **Penang**, **Singapore** and **Hongkong**, intended for transmission by the **Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel Hindostan** will be closed at this Office, on Friday, the 7th proximo, and that an after packet will be despatched here on Saturday, the 8th inst., with the ordinary Mail, to ensure the arrival at **Calcutta**, in time to reach the **steamer**. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the **Hindostan** can be received after 8 a. m. of that date.

Notice is hereby given, for general information, that the Extra Mail per **Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steamer Proserpine**, via **Southampton**, touching at the intermediate Ports of **Madras**, **Ceylon**, and **Aden** will be closed on Monday, the 20th instant. Letters intended for transmission by this conveyance must be specially **inscribed per Proserpine**.

**Deputy Post Master General in Charge.**  
Gen. Post Office, the 11th October, 1851.

**THE LONDON MAIL OF MONDAY THE 8TH SEPTEMBER** reached Calcutta on the morning of the 14th instant with intelligence, which, though of no immediate interest, is of great prospective promise. The Queen had proceeded to Balmoral, where she was residing in quiet and tranquillity, Lord John Russell being the only Minister in attendance on her Majesty. While at Holyrood Palace, she conferred the honor of Knighthood on the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, and a literary pension of 800*£* a year on Dr. Wilson, (Christopher North) who has been all his life the political antagonist of the Whig Minister, by whom this act of liberality was proposed. Her Majesty did not intend to return to England before the 8th of October, when she will visit the towns of Manchester and Liverpool, as well as Warrington Hall, the seat of the Earl of Ellesmere. The interest of the Crystal Palace, as might naturally have been expected, has begun to wane. The harvest has kept a large portion of the agricultural population in the fields, and on the 6th of September, the number of visitors had diminished to 12,672, and the receipts to 1,198*£*. The Association formed in Ireland to encourage the Roman Catholic prelates in violating the law, and assuming territorial titles, was in a state of temporary quiescence, waiting for the first enforcement of the Act, to begin a new and fiercer agitation. Lord Shrewsbury, one of our hereditary legislators, had set the example of enrolling his name among its members, and subscribing to its funds. On the other hand, the Duke of Norfolk, who stands at the head of the British Peers, and of the Roman Catholic community, is about, it is confidently stated, to embrace Protestantism. The state of trade, manufactures, and the harvest, was most satisfactory. The condition of the laboring classes was so materially improved, that "agitation was positively dead, and charity altogether exploded." The *Economist* and *Banker's Magazine* were discussing the effect of a fall of 20 per cent. in the price of bullion on the currency of the country, and "predicting, on what appears to be well defined principles,

an effect from the influx of gold upon our national debt, equivalent to an extinction of 184,000,000*£* of the principal, and a relief from the burden of taxation equal to the extent of 5,000,000*£*." The news of the new **El-Dorado** at Bathurst had just reached England, and had begun to create a sensation; but as it was considered to be exaggerated, the effect was comparatively feeble. What will they say when they have authentic intelligence of the discovery of one lump of pure gold, one hundred and six pounds in weight? One result of this intelligence will be the absolute necessity of an immediate establishment of steam communication, as soon as Parliament meets. Those who are interested in those colonies will no longer brook a week's delay. The emigration from Ireland continues unabated. On Friday, the 5th September, a steamer left Waterford with 600 souls on board, as many being left behind for the next vessel. One of the most extensive proprietors in Monaghan has arranged to send off 2000 persons from his estates to America this year. An emigration Agent at Dublin has made arrangements for the conveyance of 1000. vast numbers, moreover, were about to leave the country for ever on the completion of the harvest. Their places are rapidly filling up with English immigrants; all the mountain farms on the estates of Lord Sligo and Lord Lucan are let to English farmers, who bring with them their capital, their cattle and their enterprise; a single steamer brought them over 2500 ewes and 60 rams, (Cheviot.) Ireland will yet prosper and flourish, but in the hands of a different race. The process of exchanging a Saxon and Protestant population for a Celtic and Roman Catholic one, appears to proceed with increasing rapidity.

The Mail brings us pleasing intelligence of new movements in various directions for shortening and facilitating communication between different parts of the globe. A large Company has been formed for completing the line of Railway between Ostend and Trieste, which, when finished, will render the route by Trieste far shorter than that by Marseilles. The *Times* holds out the prospect of reaching Calcutta from London in a week, fourteen years hence, by means of Railroads. A project is on foot for establishing a steam communication between the ports of Galway in Ireland and Halifax, with the certainty of being able to complete the voyage across the Atlantic in six days. But the greatest enterprise announced on the present occasion is the accomplishment of the journey from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and the complete dissipation of all those wild exaggerations which there have been in all the statements relative to the passage across the Isthmus of Panama. On the 14th July, the American steam ship *Pacific* left San Francisco, and reached San Juan del Sud on the Pacific. The passengers rode on mules a distance of about 18 miles to the city of Veraca, in three hours and a half, and then embarked in another steamer on the lake of Nicaragua, and reached the Rapids in 18 hours, then took another steamer and proceeded down the San Juan river, to the town of San Juan on the Atlantic. The time actually thus occupied in traversing the Isthmus between the rival towns of San Juan on either ocean was between 34 and 36 hours! Thus

"within 30 months of the time when the question of Nicaragua first became generally discussed, this American Company have established a line of the fastest steamers both on the Atlantic and the Pacific, have completed a survey which shows that the difficulties that for 300 years have frightened the world from attempting a junction of the oceans, were absolutely fabulous, have carried 200 passengers in a few hours down a river which was represented as almost impracticable from shoals and rapids even for Indian canoes, have removed all the uncertainties and terrors that rendered the Isthmus, the great stumblingblock of a safe and cheap passage to Australia, have brought California a week or ten days nearer to New York, and have secured for themselves the monopoly of a traffic which is the most marvellous that has ever been known, and the disposal of fertile lands and trading stations, and natural docks, that promise ultimately to receive the commerce of the world."

The news from America is most important. General Lopez had fitted out an expedition from the United States for Cuba, in spite of the proclamations of the American Government, to sympathize with those who were anxious to throw off the Spanish yoke in that magnificent island. The object of the expedition was of course to lay the foundation for the annexation of this possession to the great Republic. According to the American version, he landed with 450 men, had two engagements with the Spaniards, and was successful in both, the Spaniards lost 80 officers and 300 men. His force was increasing; from 1200 to 1500 recruits joined him daily, and it was reported that an entire regiment of the Government troops had joined him. The Spanish account, on the other hand, is, that Lopez had fought only one battle with the Spanish troops, and that immediately after his landing. The loss on the Spanish side upon their repulse, was between 4 and 500. The latter, meeting large reinforcements, returned to the charge, routed the invaders and captured nearly every one of them, including Lopez. Two steamers had left New Orleans with reinforcements for Lopez. After the first engagement, he concerted a sudden movement on fort Cabana, and sent 50 of his men in launches by water. They were discovered by a Spanish war steamer and captured, and taken in irons to Havannah, where they were marched to the great square and every one of them deliberately shot, in cold blood. The troops then retired, and the populace indulged themselves with "a few hours' mutilation of the bodies, after which the relics were pitched into a large horse cart and dragged away like disembowelled cattle from the arena of a bull fight." These men were doubtless guilty of piracy, and deserved the severest punishment, but this wholesale butchery was the most impolitic course the Spanish authorities could possibly have pursued, and it may end in the separation of the island from the Crown of Spain. The report of this execution created the most intense indignation and indignation throughout the reports of the Union from New York to New Orleans. The excitement was unexampled. The remains of all the victims, Colonel Chelendin and Captain Victor Ker were conveyed to this latter place, and minute guns were fired in

honor of them. The people rose on the Spanish Consul, who was obliged to seek refuge in the jail; and hundreds were ready to embark for Cuba to revenge their "murdered countrymen." With the general agitation which prevails throughout the country, it is difficult to see how the two Governments can maintain pacific relations; and a war between America and Spain in reference to Cuba, would soon become a European question.

The intelligence from the Continent is scanty. A fresh political plot has been discovered at Lyons, the ramifications of which have been traced to Paris, where nearly 300 men had been arrested. The Emperor of Austria has extinguished every vestige of constitutional Government, and established a pure and unmitigated despotism, by ordaining that the Ministry shall in future be responsible only to himself.

**EXTENSION OF THE RAILWAY.**—We stated on the 27th of February last, that "Major Kennedy, the Consulting Engineer of Government and Mr. Trimble, the Superintendent of the Railway, had been ordered to survey the line from Rajmahal to the Soane with an impression that the straight line through the Hills to Mirzapore was not the most advisable." It has therefore been suggested to continue the present line to some point near Boodhoo, about twenty miles beyond Burdwan, and then to run the main line through Beerbhoom at the Eastern base of the Hills to Rajmahal, and continue it along the right bank of the Ganges to Mirzapore." They surveyed this line as far as the Soane, and furnished reports, the one to Government, the other to the Railway Company, which were duly transmitted to the Court of Directors. The last Mail has brought out the decision of the Court on this important question, and we are happy to find that they express their entire approbation of the new line thus proposed, and announce their determination, whenever the line may be extended, to direct it through the Gangetic valley. At the same time they require the preliminary surveys to be continued forthwith to Mirzapore.

Whatever diversity of opinion may still exist regarding the two lines, which were proposed, the one direct to Mirzapore through the Hills, the other to the same terminus by way of Rajmahal, and along the banks of the river, through Calcutta, Rajmahal, Dinapore, and Munger, and Patna—it is a matter of the most cordial congratulation that the Court of Directors have thus at once sanctioned the extension of the Rail Road from Calcutta to Mirzapore. Their noble conduct on this occasion will be fully appreciated by all those who take an interest in the progress of this great undertaking, and will receive all the commendation which it so richly deserves. When the contract was made for the first portion, it was denominated the "experimental" line, and we naturally apprehended that the continuation of the Rail, through the length of this Presidency, would be made dependent on the success of that experiment, while, at the same time, the insufficient length of the experimental line forbade our entertaining any very sanguine hope of its success. Now, the subject was brought under public notice, the Indian authorities in the House of Commons repudiated this idea, and declared that the Burdwan line was only considered by them as the *first section* of the great trunk Rail road, which they intended to carry on to the North West Provinces. It is most gratifying to find that the Court of Directors have with the most cheerful alacrity re-

deemed their promise, as soon as the reports of the Engineers have been laid before them; and that their decision has been communicated with such promptitude, as to save the approaching cold weather, and enable the preliminary survey to be completed, before the next rains set in. The Railway to Mirzapore being thus secure, there can be no longer any doubt, that it will be continued to Delhi, when the time comes round.

This determination of the Court, introduces a new element into the question now under discussion of making a temporary terminus of the line at the Rancegunge Collieries. That resolution was formed while it was as yet undetermined whether the main line was to run direct to Mirzapore, or by way of the Ganges. This question has now been definitively settled in favor of the Ganges line.

The line which is carried to the Collieries from the point at which the main road will run off to Rajmahal is exclusively a *branch mineral* line, and its direction as well as its termination is calculated simply on the ground of its cost, and of bringing the best coal, at the lowest price, to Calcutta. We believe that Government has always contemplated the extension of this mineral line to the junction of the Barakar and the Damooda, where the finest coal has been reported to be found, but the question remained in some measure in abeyance, while the direction of the main trunk Rail was under consideration. The decision of this point, beyond the possibility of its being re-opened, renders it necessary to come to an early determination regarding the final terminus of the mineral branch. The distance from Rancegunge to the Barakar, as the crow flies, is Twenty miles, and it is highly desirable, that arrangements for conducting the line to that point, if it be considered desirable, should be made in conjunction with the operations now about to be undertaken to the coal fields. If the matter be so settled now, if the survey be not completed at the present time, and if a distinct provision be not made, that the line now about to commence shall extend at once from Pandua to the Barakar, then it must inevitably follow that the line will permanently stop at whatever temporary terminus may now be decided. When the *main trunk* Railway Company and of Government is exclusively absorbed, as it will soon be, in the Gangetic line, and future capital comes to be invested in it, there can be little hope of any extension of the mineral branch beyond the point at which the Rail may now stop. On a rough calculation, it has been supposed that the Million Sterling would carry the Rail to some point in the vicinity of Rancegunge; but it is impossible at present, before a single sod has been turned up, to say how far this conjecture is correct. It may fall short of the Million by several lakhs, or it may exceed that sum; but on referring to the printed despatches from the Court, we find that the Government of India is not rigidly restricted to the One Million Sterling,\* in the construction of this first section, but has a margin allowed beyond that sum, if necessary, to render it successful. And if it be true, as af-

firmed by Mr. Williams and all the Engineers who have examined the locality, that the best coal is to be found beyond the present circle of Collieries, it appears the dictate of reason and common sense, not to terminate a Coal line just at the point where the most superior coal begins to appear.

**REPORT OF THE POST OFFICE COMMISSIONERS.**—We now enter on the pleasing task of analysing the valuable and the elaborate Report of the Post Office Commissioners, the result of which will form a most interesting era in the history of Indian improvement. The appointment of the Commission may be considered as the grateful concession of a good, though despotic Government to the wisdom and convenience of the public. A similar appointment was made by Lord Auckland in 1837, and the report of that Committee became the basis of various reforms, with which we remained satisfied until the great Post office movement in England, in 1840, which terminated in the establishment of a low and uniform postage. This, and various other improvements, which came in its wake, rendered as impatient of the invasions and mortifying differences which became daily more apparent between the great perfection of the Postal system in England, and the wretched and contemptible system which prevailed here. The public called loudly for a complete overhauling of the whole department, with the view of obtaining for India the benefit of those improved principles and those practical arrangements which had been brought to maturity in England, and Lord Dalhousie responded to the call by the appointment of a Commission, consisting of one officer from Bengal, another from Madras, and the other from Bombay.

Their vocation was to ascertain how far the reformed system of the English Post office was applicable to India, and to suggest the improvements in the department. The most obvious and important of their duties was to ascertain how far the introduction of a low and uniform rate of postage on letters and newspapers, was feasible, and this labor was rapidly discharged by the report of the London Post Office Commissioners in 1838, in which the principle on which the postage of letters ought to be determined and calculated, was, for the first time, clearly enunciated. This new and revolutionary easy task was left to our Commission, which was applying that new principle to the circumstances of India. The great objection which had been always urged to a low and uniform rate in India, was, that the same system could not be equally applicable to a country in which the Mails were carried by steam, and to one in which they were borne on men's shoulders. But the investigations of the London Commissioners completely refuted this objection. They separated the cost of conveying chargeable letters from the cost of management, and they found that the chargeable letters in the United Kingdom weighed about one-fifth of all the covers which passed through the Post office; that the total annual cost of transit was 287,806*l.* and consequently that one-fifth only of that amount was the charge for conveying the chargeable letters, which amounted to 77,600*l.*; and hence, the average cost of carrying each letter to its destination was less than two-twelfths of a penny. They therefore came to the conclusion that "the fairest principle on which to regulate the postage rates, supposing there were no tax for the purpose of revenue, would be to make that rate uniform."

\* "And you will have to determine, in the event of the sum mentioned in the Contract (1,000,000*l.*) appearing sufficient only to bring the line to some intermediate point, at which it would be undesirable to stop, whether you will make your terminus at a nearer or more distant point, and, in that event increase or decrease the capital, as the case may be, and the surplus or deficiency will be dealt with as provided for in the 17th and 21st Clauses of the Contract: in the one case the capital will be increased on the same terms as the original capital. In the other case the same will be returned to the shareholders."—*Copy of Minutes* letter to India, No. 27, dated 14th November, 1850.

The Commissioners in this country have applied this principle of calculation to the chargeable letters in India, and the following is the result: Of the whole expense of the India Post-offices, the sum incurred for the conveyance of the inland mails is Rs. 11,69,791. The actual weight of chargeable letters, including law papers, is 15,61 per cent. The cost of conveying the chargeable letters is therefore only Rs. 2,17,638. The total number of these letters in one year was 10,118,793 and their actual weight 3,112,779 tola— a tola is a little less than half an ounce—the cost of conveying them in proportion to their weight was therefore *one-third of one anna*, on each letter, while the postage actually charged on them amounted to 2 annas a letter. The Commissioners then enter into an examination of the question, whether the cost of conveying a letter, necessarily depends on the distance to which it is carried, and, by the clearest exhibition of figures, demonstrate that it does not. They then come to the conclusion that as the cost of conveying letters does not depend on distance, and as the whole cost of conveying chargeable letters is but a small fraction of the postage level on them, "the adoption of a uniform rate, if otherwise desirable, ought not to be denied to the people of India, upon the ground of any supposed difference in this respect between the circumstances of the country and those of others in which a system of uniform postage has been already introduced."

The Report then enters upon a consideration of the principle of postage best suited to the circumstances of the country, and they demonstrate that whatever improved system may be adopted must have a distinct view to the encouragement of correspondence among the Natives. The Native letters are at present, about three times the number of European letters. The European correspondence is not likely to exhibit any very material increase, under any modification. "It is to the increase of native correspondence that the Government must look, for the support of the Post office, and for all the beneficial results that have attended the establishment of a practically unrestricted communication by post in the United Kingdom." One of the great reforms of the Post Office Committee which sat in Calcutta in 1837, was the privilege granted of sending letters weighing only a quarter of a tola, at half postage. The community in general, and the natives in particular, have availed themselves of this privilege to such an extent, that of 178,872 letters sent from all the Post offices, in the lower Provinces of Bengal in four weeks, no fewer than 125,093, or nearly two-thirds, were of the lowest weight, or a quarter of a tola. The Commissioners therefore propose to make this quarter tola the basis of their scale, upon which single postage should be charged, in manner following:

On letters up to one quarter tola, ..	1 rate
" from a quarter to a half tola, ..	2 rates
" above a half and not more than one tola, ..	4 rates
" from one tola to a tola and a half, ..	6 rates
" from a tola and a half to two tola, ..	8 rates
" weighing two and not more than three tola, ..	12 rates

adding four rates for every additional tola and fraction of a tola; and they propose to charge half an anna, or, less than a penny, for the conveyance of every letter, of "one rate" to every part of India.

The Report then returns to the question of establishing a uniform rate, and adduces additional reasons for its adoption: the whole of which appear redundant, after the question has been so completely disposed of before—with the exception, however, of the fact that it has been introduced into England, the United States, France, Spain and Russia. The necessity of such an improvement is then supported by the existence of many unaccountable variations in the effects of the present rates of postage on correspondence, the various evasions of duty to which they lead, and the probable consequences of adopting a low and uniform rate of postage on letters, without reference to distance. It then proceeds to detail more particularly the chief modes by which the payment of postage is ordinarily evaded, 1st, by doubling 2dly, by private dawks, 3dly, by bulky parcels, 4thly, private messengers. As it regards private dawks, the report observes that "some of the postal authorities in the interior have stated that in their opinion private dawks exist, but they have not, for the most part, been able to bring forward any specific instances." Private dawks have been in a great measure extinguished at this Presidency, not by the heavy penalty which was ordained against the practice in 1837, but by the reduction of postage, which was made in that year, and the comparative improvement effected in the speed and regularity of the Mails. Before that period, private dawks were universally in use. In 1820, our troops were employed in the siege of Bhurtpore, which was believed by every native from the Sutledge to Comber to be impregnable. At the same time, a loan was open in Calcutta, which however received few subscriptions from native capitalists, during the siege; the protraction of which seemed to confirm the popular idea of its strength. While Government was looking out with the most intense anxiety for the receipt of the local loan, a correspondence for the new loan, of many lakhs, which we were told thirty—was suddenly poured into the Treasury, and on enquiring the cause of this extraordinary movement, by those who had hitherto been so backward, it was found that the *muhajans* in Calcutta had received intelligence of the fall of Bhurtpore during the previous night, through their private express. This was the first intimation Government received of the success of our arms; for the public express did not come in till twenty-four hours after.

The next question discussed in the Report is the effect which the introduction of a low and uniform rate of postage will produce on the receipts of the Post Office; and the data on which the opinion of the Commissioners is based, is the result of the penny postage in England, and of the reduction of postage in India, in 1837. In England the gross revenue of the Post Office under the old heavy rates was £2,316,000. In ten years, after the new system was introduced, the receipts have arisen through the increase of correspondence, to £2,218,000. In India, the gross receipts in 1837, were Rs. 12,97,000. In 1849-50, they had arisen, under the operation of a reduced rate, to Rs. 15,41,000. In England, the number of letters despatched by post, increased 300 per cent., in ten years, through the penny post. In India, the increase of correspondence produced by lowering the rates has been 150 per cent. There can, therefore, be no hesitation whatever in affirming that under the influence of so material a reduction as that of half an anna on a single letter, throughout India, the increase in the number of posted

letters will be quite as great as it is found to have been, under the operation of a smaller reduction. Yet, in order to make good the financial deficiency which the proposed low and uniform rate will create, it is only necessary that the correspondence should increase to the extent of 147 per cent. Of course, there can be no doubt whatever that the number of letters posted will make the new low rate rate of postage well increased to the rate that would be a much greater extent; and that the sum of Nine lakhs which is risked by this improvement will be fully made up. Nay, if a much smaller reduction of postage raised the postal receipts in India nearly twenty-five per cent., what reason is there to doubt that the present more substantial reduction will increase the income of the department from 16 lakhs, which is its present amount, to 20 lakhs? The establishment of a half anna postage, without reference to distance, cannot therefore be considered as a risk of Nine lakhs, as the Commissioners term it; but rather as the only mode by which the present Post Office revenue can be increased to a great extent.

It is now only a few days off. The great importance of the question, we feel cordially, will be considered a sufficient excuse for the elaborate analysis we are giving of the Report. We shall resume it next week.

**DISSENTERS' BURIALS.**—We extract an article from the last number of the *Calcutta Christian Advocate*, from which we are happy to learn, that the piece of ground which Government has granted for the burial of Dissenters in Circular Road, has now been made over to them for their sole use, and is available for the burial of the dead. Our contemporary states, that a lady once connected with the Episcopal Church was interred a few days ago in a family vault in one of the episcopal places of burial, that the undertaker who opened the vault gave no notice to any of the clergy, and that the corpse was therefore committed to the grave in silence, though there were several Dissenting ministers present: that one of the clerical men who was also at the funeral as a friend, but as the burial ground was not in his district, and the clergyman in whose district the lady had died was not called to officiate, he could not read the service, and therefore quitted the place. We think the clergyman here alluded to has mistaken the nature and object of the Government regulations on the subject of cemeteries. From the time when the episcopate was established in India, it has been the constant aim and the earnest endeavor of the episcopal authorities to divide the metropolitan parishes. But this has been steadily resisted by the Government, from the very obvious necessity of preventing the introduction of those parochial rights, privileges and prerogatives which exist in England, and which would be altogether out of place in a country where every clergyman, as regards his appointment, his removal and his allowances, occupies the position of a military chaplain. Government has therefore simply allowed of the division of the town into districts, connected severally with the episcopal Churches in them, and has provided that the surplus fees of the district shall belong exclusively to the clergyman who officiates in them. The orders of Government have reference therefore, not to the duties, but to the fees, and any clergyman is at liberty—so at least we have understood the matter—to marry, christen and bury in any district, provided always that the fees go to the clergyman of the Church, after which the district is named. As a matter

of courtesy, we believe, no clergyman officiates in the division of another, without a previous and a friendly communication.

The *Christian Advocate* inquires "Is it essential to a burial in the public episcopal burying grounds that a clergyman should be present? Cannot parties who conscientiously dissent from the Church, and who have family vaults—since their own Ministers are not allowed to officiate at the grave—inter their dead in silence, holding the religious service at the house of the deceased? We think they can do so. The vault is their property, and we are not aware that in the purchase they stipulated for the presence of a clergyman, or that his presence is necessary to the interment of the dead." By the law of England, no one can officiate in a cemetery consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England, except a clergyman of that Church. A Dissenter who may happen to have a family vault in it, must therefore either inter his dead in silence, or call in the aid of an episcopal minister. But the alternative proposed by our contemporary is, of course, always within the power of the Dissenter. Though his own minister may not perform the funeral obsequies within the sacred enclosure, the religious service may always be performed at home. But, the plan which has lately been adopted on more than one occasion in England, in similar circumstances, appears to us far more appropriate and advisable than that of the *Advocate*. The funeral procession stops at the open gate of the burial ground, and the Dissenting Minister stands immediately on the outside of the consecrated boundary, and performs the last offices for the dead; after which the corpse is taken to the grave and interred. To this practice there is no legal objection whatever. The law does not prescribe where a dissenting Minister shall officiate but where he shall not; that is, within the area of consecrated ground; and he is at liberty to perform a religious service any where, beyond that limit, even on the very verge of it, though the corpse, and the attendants should be actually within the cemetery.

The argument on which we conducted the discussion regarding the interment of Dissenters in consecrated ground in India—which has now been so happily terminated by the liberality of Government,—appears to differ materially from that mentioned in the *Advocate*. We maintained that as the burying grounds which had been in use before the introduction of the episcopate in India, had been the common possession of all denominations, it was an act of injustice to render them the exclusive property of the Church of England by consecrating them. We questioned the right of the Bishop to deprive every member of the community who was not a member of his own section of the Christian Church, of the use of cemeteries which had thus been the general repositories of all classes from time immemorial. We considered that if the fact of common and prescriptive possession was established, the right of the Bishop to appropriate it to his own denomination was clearly barred. That these burial places had thus been used without reference to sect, or denomination, or even creed, was abundantly manifested by a reference to the tombstones; and we mentioned one particular instance of the catholic and liberal spirit which formerly prevailed in this country, as to the fellowship of the grave. When Bishop Heber proceeded to consecrate the burying ground at Dacca, the first tombs which met his eye were those of two Chinamen, who had been connected with the Company's fac-

tory at that factory seventy or eighty years before. The chief Civilian of the station, who was in attendance, offered at once to have the bodies disinterred, when the good bishop with a smile begged that they might be allowed to remain, as he was sure the pagan bones would take no harm from the consecration of the ground. We pointed out the necessity of leaving a portion of the ground for the use of those sections of the community to whom it had always belonged, whenever the Bishop deemed it necessary to perform an act of consecration for the benefit of the members of his own Church. It is this equitable principle which Lord Dalhousie has recognized and enforced, and for which the gratitude of the community is due to him.

**NEW FURNITURE FOR THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE, CALCUTTA**—Some thirty years ago Lord Byron assured the world that there was nothing certain underneath the sun, except the Whigs not getting into place. They have now been in nearly fifteen years. In this country, the only thing which appeared to be certain was, that the furniture of Government House would never be renewed. Every successive Governor General, on his first arrival, has been so struck at the antiquarian appearance of the chairs, couches, tables, and lustres as to express his immediate determination to refurbish the House; but he has soon succeeded in reconciling himself to the venerable contents of the old "curiosity shop," more especially when the Secretaries to Government have hinted to him the extreme reluctance of the Honorable Court to expend a farthing in renewing furniture and upholstery with which a long succession of Governors General had been satisfied. Indeed, the Directors, although they have long since repented of the conduct of their predecessors to Lord Wellesley, and have endeavored to make some atonement for it by raising a statue to the memory of that illustrious man, have apparently never forgotten the expense he incurred in the erection and furniture of Government House. This was one of the special charges brought against him in the memorable despatch which the "affectionate friends" of "Our Governor General in Council in Bengal," proposed to send to Lord Wellesley, in April 1805, and which the Board of Control thought fit to cancel, as "very injuriously and unjustly reflecting upon the British Councils in India for a series of years past." In that despatch they complain that the expense of Government house had been Rs. 13,20,000, and "that the sum charged for plate, furniture, &c. in 1801-2 and 1802-3 exceeded Rs. 1,00,000; adding that "they thought it unnecessary and inexpedient that he"—that is the Governor General—"should, in his houses, his attendants, his establishments give into the style of Asiatic pomp and display."

These ideas have been supposed still to exist in the Hall at the India House, a kind of herloom, and we have been accustomed to believe that the furniture was never to be renewed, but was destined to remain a standing monument of the just indignation of the Directors of 1805 at the oriental extravagance and pomp of Lord Wellesley. But the Court, as it would appear, have at length resolved that the viceregal palace of this great empire shall be relieved of the chairs and couches which have belabored it for nearly half a century, and that the interior appointments of the mansion shall be brought into some kind of congruity with the magnificence of its external appearance. The old chairs, on which our great men have sat,

Wellesley, Wellington, Hastings, Malcolm, Mount Stewart Elphinstone, Bentinck, and a host of others, are therefore to be disposed of by public outcry, and dispersed through the residences of the more indigent classes of the metropolis. The old chandeliers, which have illuminated the festivities of three generations, will now pass into the hands of native gentry of common habits, to be lighted up at the Doorga pojah and other festivals, for they would be considered shabby in any European house of respectability. The Council room will come in for its share of new furniture, and the old table at which the Black Act was proposed by Macaulay, and even the chair in which he sat, when he exhibited such "measureless insolence and atrocious legislative depravity," to quote the elegant phraseology of the journals of the day, will be sold off by the stroke of the hammer. We advise a general subscription for the purchase of it, as well as of the chairs of the arbitrary, despotic, tyrannical Council, and suggest their being deposited in some room of the Town Hall to be brought out on occasion may require to give real and animation to all future philanthropists.

**THE RE-DIVISION OF THIS PRESIDENCY.**—The *Lahore Chronicle* has stated that the Governor General has not only recommended that the Metropolis of British India should be removed from Calcutta and planted at Simlah, but that the Board of Administration at Lahore should be broken up, and the Punjab annexed to the Government of the North West Provinces, and that the districts as far west as Allahabad should be detached from that Government and annexed to Calcutta. This arrangement would give us two Governments only for the whole of a territory, extending from Peshawar to Sandoway, a distance of Two thousand two hundred miles. As this proposal appears, for a variety of reasons, to be equally as preposterous as the other, it is difficult to believe that Lord Dalhousie has ever dreamt of recommending it. For ten years to come at least, and, certainly, until the elements of discord and revolt in the Punjab have been extinguished by the death of the soldiers who so fiercely encountered us at Moodkee, Yerrashur, Sohran and Chillianwallah, and so rudely shook the fabric of our empire, the central authority in that country must be at the capital, Lahore. The mere removal of the seat of Government from the place which is identified with its existence and authority, would give rise to dormant speculations and aspirations, which it might be found both troublesome and expensive to quell. The country of the Five Rivers is of sufficient magnitude and importance to require a separate administration of its own; and the various improvements which have already resulted from the establishment of such a Government, furnish the most cogent argument for perpetrating the arrangement. Neither would it be just to the North West Provinces which have derived such pre-eminent advantages from the existence of a Government exclusively entangled with their interests, to distract the attention of the Lieutenant Governor by the addition of a new kingdom to his responsibilities, and by extending his jurisdiction across the Sutledge and the Indus, to the mouth of the Rhyber pass. Equally objectionable would it be to push forward the limits of the British Government, to Allahabad. The Governor of these Lower Provinces has already enough to attend to in the management of a revenue of ten millions sterling, and a population of more than thirty



millions, speaking five different languages. The Government of Bengal has not broken down only because it is, from the necessity of circumstances, conducted on the principle of simply keeping the machine in motion; but whenever the new element of progression is introduced into it, it will immediately be found to stand in need of more administrative means and appliances, even within its present area.

None of our local governments on this side of India, neither the Punjab nor the North West Provinces, nor Bengal, are too limited in extent. If any thing, they are already too large; and we are not certain that the formation of these territories into four divisions instead of three, would not be found beneficial. The experience which has been gained from the experiment of establishing a separate government at Agra, points rather to the multiplication than to the diminution of these local divisions, or provinceships, or intendencies, or by whatever name they may be designated. We have now six such governments, independent of each other, and subordinate to the Government of India,—the Punjab, Agra, Bengal, the Straits, Madras and Bombay. Scinde, which was a principality before we conquered it, might make a seventh division; and we should not be sorry to see the number increased to ten. Even as it is, Sir John Little has nearly as many subjects as Louis Napoleon, and Mr. Thomason one-sixth more than the whole population of the United States.

**JUGGNATH, AND HIS ENDOWMENTS.**—The *Indian Intelligencer* of Tuesday last informs us that the lands belonging to the temple of Juggnath, which the British Government resumed in the year 1802, yielded an annual rent of 374,000 Rs. He has been consulting a Blue Book in which he finds the Revenue Board in that year informing the Governor General that "the sudden jamma of the mela for which the proprietors have entered into engagements for the year 1212 is, ..... Rs. 338,866, to which must be added the sum of Rs. 40,462 being the estimated jamma of the khas mela, the total expected jamma for the current year will be Rs. 3,74,310." This sum, which was the public revenue of the district, he has with much simplicity assumed to be the revenues of Juggnath's temple! Now, if he will turn to the "Papers relating to Juggnath, printed in conformity with a resolution of the General Court of Proprietors of East India Stock on the 22d December, 1847," he will find as exact statement of all the lands appropriated to the temple, with the amount of the respective resources, drawn up by Mr. Greene the Collector, in the year 1805, that is, one year before the letter of the Board which he has quoted. From that document we learn that the annual jamma of the rent free lands for the use of the temple, amounted to 81,104 Kahans, and the receipts from the Satees Hazare estates, to Rs. 18,295. Again, in their despatch to the Legislative Department of the 12th July 1844, the Court of Directors stated, that they were desirous of commuting the "remainder of the allowances, and restoring any other lands of equal value which may formerly have belonged to the temple." On the receipt of this communication, the Collector of Soorah, Mr. Garret, was enjoined to make enquiry as to any lands which might have been attached to the temple when we took the country from the Marathas, and he made the most searching investigation on the subject, and consulted all the records, and finally came to the conclusion, that

with the exception of the Satees Hazare estates, which had been made over to the Rajah, "no lands of which any record is now extant, or of which any trace is forthcoming, have been set aside for the use of the temple." If lands with an annual rental of nearly four lakhs of Rupees had belonged to the temple in 1802, and were resumed in 1847, as Sir Herbert Jeffreys asserts, Mr. Garret must assuredly have discovered some trace of the transaction. That journal is therefore altogether in the wrong, and it is important to set him right to prevent any future representation from him or any of his countrymen, to the effect that the British Government had filched lands from this Lord of World to the time of 400,000 Rs. a year, and then denied him money to buy even his daily food. The story is as fabulous as the Ptolema.

**THE RAILWAY TERMINUS AT RANEEPUK.**—The *Englisman* has returned to this subject, and published some remarks on our article of last week, to which it would be easy for us to offer a rejoinder, if it appeared likely to lead to any practical result. We confidently repeat the assertion, that the limitation of the line to Raneeput was not occasioned by any desire to give a preference to one colliery over another. At the same time, we desire to renew our assurance that if the result of this Mineral line, which will cost half a Million sterling, should be, to give a monopoly to one overgrown and overbearing Company, then it would be better not to begin it at all. Since our last article was written, we have had an opportunity of perusing the letter addressed by the Trade Association to Government on this subject. That body has done itself no little credit by the public spirit which it has manifested on this and on many other occasions. It presents a singular contrast to the lethargy, and insouciance of that illustrious body, the Chamber of Commerce, of which every one enquires what has come of it. The spirited representation of the Trade Association will, we have no doubt, produce the desired effect. The memorial they have sent to Government is accompanied with a map pointing out in a red circle, the spot which they consider most advisable for the temporary terminus of the Rail, as affording equal advantages to all the collieries now worked. We may reasonably conclude that the strongest objections to the stoppage of the Rail at Raneeput, and the most obvious mode of avoiding those objections are embodied in this communication. We happen to know that it is now under the consideration of the State and of the Railway Authorities, and we therefore suspend this passage of arms with the *Englisman*, till we learn what their decision may be.

#### WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THE COLLECTOR, OCTOBER 2.

—The *Illustrated London Evening Paper*, which we have not seen, the great and important fact, that a mass of pure gold had been discovered at the Bathurst diggings, weighing One Hundred and Six pounds; more than a pound and a quarter of pure gold in one lump! No wonder that a thousand extra copies were sold of the paper containing this news. The value of the gold already exported from those mines, at the current rates, was 11,688. We feel certain, that if arrangements have not been made already for a steam communication to the New Holland colonies, one week will not elapse after this news reaches England, before they are completed. We learn incidentally that the circulation of the *Morning Herald*, a Sydney paper, is three thousand one hundred and fifty, nearly double that of any paper in India.

—H. M. Elliot and Sir James Lawrence came up to town yesterday. The Government House in Calcutta is covered with a net work of scaffolding, and it is obviously not available for the accommodation of Commodore Lambert and his officers. Sir John Little has therefore offered them the use of

Barrackpore Park, and will himself accompany them thither next week.

—We are rejoiced to learn from the *Heralds*, that the question of the Presidency of the Council of Education has been settled. It has been offered to Sir James Outram, and he has accepted it, on condition that no offence shall be taken if he should find the duties of it incompatible with his judicial responsibilities, and be obliged to resign it. Sir James is only for the future individual for this important office, and he is a man of high character and high judicial responsibilities. He will discharge current duties, and will give to the Council of Education, and to the Government College, and turn the attention of the students to more practical and useful pursuits.

—The *Sydney Morning Herald* states, that the elections at Adelaide were over, that they turned upon the question of grants of public money for the support of religion; and that of the sixteen individuals thus chosen, eleven were opposed to these grants, and only five in favor of them. This is a most significant fact. It shows that the Australian colonies are likely to follow the example of America, and leave all the Ministers of all denominations to derive their support from their respective flocks, and to repudiate the example of the religious establishments of England.

—The *Dumfries Times* informs us, that the workmen in the gun canon manufactory at that Presidency are at present employed in preparing materials and in the railway carriage, and six miles of Railway for the centre of the Punjab. This Rail, it is said, is intended for the purpose of removing to that Presidency the material of a fort about to be dismantled.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10.

—Col. Steinbach, who has been a series of years in the service of the Rajah of Gwalior, has not returned from the service, and has, we learn, arrived at Bombay on his way to Europe.

—Various conflicting reports have appeared from time to time in the papers since the death of Ayaz Mahomed, of the projects and efforts of Dost Mahomed and of the Candahar Chiefs to possess themselves of Herat. But a letter from Peshawar published in the *Barbours* instructs us that no movement whatever has been made. Neither Dost Mahomed nor any of his sons have marched towards that city. The chiefs of Candahar have quarrelled with each other, and every day the reports are more and more folded up. Neither, up to the latest date, were any Persians moving down towards the city. For ought we know, every thing remains in statu quo, and may continue so for a long time to come.

—The same letter states with confidence, that a force consisting of three guns and a regiment of horse and a battalion of foot, was sent to Herat, and has been there some boundary disputes near the Kurram river, in reference to some ground which is now in possession of the Dost. Two thousand men to settle a boundary dispute appears rather a large complement, and it is indeed singular that we should have been able to learn from actual warfare with this Chief, since the territories which he governs are not contiguous, and we are in a state of permanent hostility to him.

—The papers announce the decease at Rangoon, of the widow of Tipoo Sultan and the mother of Prince Gholam Mahomed. She had attained the venerable age of Ninety-seven, and had been more than half a century a widow.

—The following description of the investiture of Sir H. M. Wheeler, with the second order of the Bath at Simla, we copy from a communication in the *Englisman*. We are rather surprised to find it stated that no fewer than 200 of the youth and beauty of the Indian nobility were present on this occasion.—"In a few minutes his Lordship rose, and addressing the assemblage in forcible and eloquent language, stated that he had received the princely commands of Her Most Gracious Majesty to invest that distinguished officer, Brigadier Wheeler, with the Order of K. C. B. and, further, that Her Most Gracious Majesty had been pleased to direct that the investiture should be carried into effect with all the pomp and magnificence the occasion called for. "His Majesty's salute," he said, "is no great matter, but I am perfectly satisfied it is quite unnecessary for me to remind you, that the approbation of your Sovereign, the thanks of your country, and discharge of honor, are given to each and every one of you." His Lordship then directed Sir H. Elliot and Sir James Lawrence to introduce the Brigadier, who after some short delay was led into the presence, supported by Sir H. Elliot and Sir James Lawrence, by Colonel Tucker, C. B., Adjutant General of the Army, bearing the insignia on a crimson silk cushion. On approaching the throne the Brigadier made his obeisance. His Lordship then, in the most graceful manner, received the insignia from Colonel Tucker, and the Brigadier respectfully knelt, was laid with the ribbon, which was passed round his neck and fastened at the front battery firing a salute, and the bands playing "God save the Queen." His Lordship congratulated the Honorable Officer, who was apparently highly gratified at the honorable mark of his Sovereign's approbation."

























# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

**REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER S. AND C. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDUSTAN," SINGAPORE TO CALCUTTA.**  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for Suez, and the intermediate Ports (Aden, Ceylon, Aken, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong), intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel "Hindustan" will be closed at this Office, on Friday, the 7th Proximo, and that an after parcel will be despatched here on Saturday, the 8th Idem, with the ordinary Mail, to secure its arrival at Redgore, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the "Hindustan" can be received after 3 p. m. of that date.

**REPORT OVERLAND EXPRESS MAIL VIA BOMBAY.**  
NOTICE is hereby given that an Express Packet (consisting exclusively of Overland letters, not exceeding the prescribed Maximum weight of six lbs. in the aggregate) intended for conveyance by the Steamer appointed to leave Bombay on the 10th Proximo, will be closed and despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 24th Idem, and that no letters or parcels will be received after 12 p. m. on that day. "Overland" packets will be completed for transmission by the ordinary mail, and parcels requested to take place, or to be forwarded, independently.

Not more than Two Table weight of letters can be posted at each occasion by any one firm or individual.

J. R. BRIDGES, BARRISTER.  
Deputy Post Master General at S. Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, the 10th October, 1851.

## DID SIR WILLIAM MACNAUGHTEN AUTHORIZE THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CABUL CHIEFS?

About four months ago, we examined with great care and attention the charge brought by a writer in the *Calcutta Review* against the murdered Envoy, of having procured the assassination of two of the Cabul chieftains, during the insurrection, and offered a reward for the heads of others. We endeavored to prove, by a comparison of dates and by the aid of documents in our possession, that the charge was utterly unfounded, and we were gratified to learn from all quarters that this attempt to revive the memory of Sir William from so odious and flagrant an imputation, was considerably successful. In the course of the discussion, we were constrained, however, to expose the proceedings of the Moonshes Mobin Lall, from whom the reviewer professed to have derived his information, and to hold his conduct up to that detestation which it appeared to merit. The perusal of our article, as might have been expected, filled him with no pleasant feelings, and he soon after sent us a communication, with a request that it might be published verbatim, without any reservation. It has now been in our possession more than two months, and we owe him an explanation of the delay which has occurred in the publication of it, which we now propose to give. The article we published in July last was sent to England, and we were anxious to hear of its result on the minds of those who had taken a deep interest in the history of the Cabul tragedy, and were well acquainted with all its details. We were desirous more especially of hearing whether any other documents than those alluded to in the *Review* were to be found in England relative to the offer of head money which Sir William Macnaughten was alleged to have made, in order that we might have an opportunity of examining them in conjunction with Mobin Lall's communication. The last mail has brought letters from our friends, which give us clearly to understand that the view which we took of the case, is considered to be in exact accordance with the truth, and that there are no documents to impugn its accuracy.

We are therefore fully justified in receiving the following facts with confidence,—that Capt.

John Conolly, who was accredited to the King Shah Soojah, and living with him at the Bala Hisser, at the time when the English camp was beleaguered by the enemy, did write to Mobin Lall, and offer rewards for the destruction of the chiefs who had rebelled against the King. These letters were written under the express direction of the Shah, whose conduct it is not our desire to palliate any farther than by stating, that ninety-six years before, the King of England offered a similar reward for the head of the Pretender. But these letters were written without the concurrence or even the knowledge of the Envoy. Nor did the Envoy on any one occasion suggest to Mobin Lall or to any other person, even in the most qualified manner, the desirableness of assassinating any of the rebel chiefs, and when it was for the first time alluded to by him, he repudiated it with direct and honest words. Such is the result of a careful and impartial examination of the documents which the Reviewer has brought forward with so much zeal and zest, in the hope of smashing the Envoy's character. We venture, therefore, to state with perfect confidence that unless there are any other documents than those which have been exhibited, to substantiate the charge, we may consider it as one of the established and incontrovertible facts of British Indian History, that Sir William Macnaughten never for a moment contemplated the assassination of those who had rendered his position so critical, and that he never on any occasion gave the smallest encouragement to do so.

If any thing he wanting to confirm this fact it will be found in the following letter, from the individual, and the only individual, who is said to have been employed by the Envoy to take off his opponents by treachery.

THE LATE SIR WILLIAM MACNAUGHTEN, BART.

To the Editor of the *Friend of India*.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—My stock of the English knowledge is so poor that I cannot properly reveal my feelings of indignation and astonishment at the most unfair and cruel manner in which my name has been handled by the two public journals, viz. the *Calcutta Review* of January 1851, and the *Friend of India* of 3d July. Nor do I possess abilities to parade myself in public papers.

I have not read the former publication myself, but from what I have read in the *Friend of India*, see that the Reviewer is so cruel in his unjust and groundless attacks upon the late Sir William Macnaughten, as to have reached him (the Reviewer) from the sources prejudicial to the late Envoy and his subordinates. On my part, I solemnly declare and say that I know nothing of the Reviewer. In fact, I have never read the *Calcutta Review* in my life. Nor I have ever held any conversation on the Cabul affairs with any officer privately in India or England.

As far as the writer of the article in the *Friend of India* proceeds in defending the memory of the late Envoy, I heartily agree with him. He was my best friend and a noblest patron from the time he was Secretary to Lord William Bentinck. The report of Sir William Macnaughten's authorizing me or any one else to employ assassins against the Rebel Chiefs, is a tissue of bare falsehood.

To authorise or approving any thing of the kind was below his generous temper, and far from his pure principles. I have said this in my official document, dated so far back as the 25th May, 1845, which I shewed to the Honorable Mr. Erskine at Simla in 1847, with its accompanying letter from the Government. This gentleman having read both the documents, expressed his satisfaction, adding that I was unjustly blamed, and I believe that he related the whole contents of the documents to Lord Harlborough.

The words which have poured from the pen of the writer of the article in the *Friend of India* against me as "treacherous-plotters," "cheating Governments," "to impose on the Court of Directors to secure the sum of \$9000 Rs." had fair play that he is manifestly resolved to ignore me and is my bitter enemy. I have never asked any money from the Court of Directors nor they gave me any, excepting for my own pit, and the payment of certain Cabul accounts which were forwarded by the Government.

I never did any thing in Cabul before or after the insurrection broke out—which was not published by the authority of my Political superiors. Hence it is evident that every word of the writer of the article in the *Friend of India* regarding my conduct in the affairs of Cabul, is the creature of his malignant heart and bent to make me a victim of his spiteful bosom.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) MOBIN LAL.

Loofianah, 1st August, 1851.

This letter, as the reader will perceive, is perfectly genuine. It comes from Mobin Lall's own pen. In it he distinctly and unreservedly denies that Sir William Macnaughten ever authorised him or any one else to employ assassins against the rebel chiefs. It would scarcely be possible to obtain clearer evidence of the Envoy's perfect innocence of the crime which has been laid on his charge.

As regards our own remarks on Mobin Lall, it was impossible for us to have thought otherwise than we did, if there was any faith to be placed in the statements of the *Review*. When we were assured that Mobin Lall had demanded head money from the Envoy for the assassination of two chiefs who had died without his assistance; that he had openly stated that the Envoy had refused to pay it, unless he could see the heads, and when moreover we learned from the most authentic source, that he had deducted the amount from his accounts when they were laid before the Court of Directors, because the Envoy did not approve of the mode of their removal, it was impossible to entertain any other feeling but that of indignation, and it would have been an act of inconsistency not to have expressed it when writing on the subject. But if Mobin Lall intends, as we believe from his letter he does, to assert, not only that Sir William Macnaughten never authorized him to offer a reward for the assassination of the rebels, but that he, Mobin Lall, never gave any one to understand, that such authority had ever been conveyed to him, or that any encouragement had ever been offered him by the Envoy, we shall consider it our pleasing duty to retract the remarks we have made on his character.

PROHIBITION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE FROM TAKING PART AT ANY JOINT STOCK COMPANY.—We have been from time to time, informed that orders were to be immediately expected from the Court of Directors,

directing their Civil and the Military servants to quit the management of the Joint Companies. Many elaborate disquisitions have been published in the newspapers of the different Presidencies on the subject, and various efforts have been made to show that the removal of the public servants from the direction of the Banks would be highly injurious to their interests, and, moreover, not a little unjust to the members of the service who had invested their funds in these institutions. It seems to have been totally overlooked, that the only reason why no such orders as those which we have seen so repeatedly told to expect from Lord Dalhousie, were despatched, was that they were totally unnecessary, inasmuch as the prohibition was issued more than twelve years ago, when the Court of Directors "positively interdicted their Civil or Military servants taking any part in the Management of the Universal Assurance Company, or any similar Society." This prohibition was first sent out from Leadenhall Street on the 15th February, 1837; it was repeated on the 5th of April, 1839; and it was promulgated by the President in Council on the 24th of July, 1839. It is manifest, therefore, that the position which the Civil and Military officers of Government have been allowed to occupy in the Mofussil Banks for the last twelve years, has been in utter violation of the positive orders of the Court of Directors, and that the tacit permission they have continued to enjoy has arisen only from the culpable indifference to those orders manifested by the Civil and Military Authorities. They have been enforced only in Calcutta.

On the 10th of the present month, the Lieutenant Governor of the North West provinces, republished for general information these Orders, which "prohibited the Civil Servants of the Government from taking part in the management or direction of any Joint Stock Company." His Honor has, of course, no authority except over the Civil servants under his jurisdiction; and they will now be constrained forthwith to relinquish all connection with any of the Mofussil Banks, except as shareholders. But, after this notification from the Civil branch of the Government, the Commander-in-Chief can no longer delay the issue of corresponding orders in the Military Department, without incurring a "serious responsibility." It is much to be regretted that the first neglect of these orders was not noticed by Government, and that they were not immediately republished in the official Gazette, with the view of "drawing the attention" of the public servants to them. We should then have been spared many scenes of distress and disgrace in connection with the Mofussil Banks, and more than one life and more than one commission would have been saved. But it is useless to regret the past. The notification published by the Lieutenant Governor must have the immediate effect of clearing the Banks, and all other Joint Stock Associations, of every member of the public service.

**OUR OWN ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH** from Calcutta to Kedgeree, as the papers have stated, is on the eve of being completed, and will begin to work, we believe, about the beginning of the next year, when the present Semaphore system will be in a great measure superseded. The experimental lines which were constructed at the beginning of this year, remained in statu quo; until a sufficient quantity of rain, or thirty-five inches, had fallen, to test their insulation, and to regulate other operations. It was not, however, till the 15th of

August, that a sufficient quantity had thus fallen, when the Kedgeree line was immediately undertaken, twenty-five miles in length, of which sixteen have been completed; the remaining nine will be finished before the end of the present year. In August, a branch line of eleven miles was carried across the paddy-fields and swamps from the Missionary station at Villanore to Moyapore. In September, the branch junction line, enclosed in said and rosin cement, was conducted under-ground about 8½ miles from Alipore to Chandpall Ghaut. The wire rods for the river crossings are ready, and will be laid across the Hooghly and the Huldee, as soon as the Kedgeree line is complete. The general result of these experiments, during the season of thunderstorms, is, that the substitution of thick iron rods, similar to those which have been used, for the wire employed elsewhere, obviates nearly every objection to the over ground system, and renders it preferable in many respects to the subterranean plan, except in particular localities, such as populous towns, villages, and markets, where the burying of the rod gives it the necessary protection from wanton injury. The objections to the underground method, are, the great expense attending it, the necessity of obtaining first rate workmen for every inch of the line, and of constant and vigilant superintendence, as well as the slowness which attends the operation, and the much greater amount of battery power which is necessary for its efficient working.

With regard to the Instruments used, a fair trial has been given to "thunder, lightning, and in rain," to every kind that may be prepared or procured, from the chef-d'œuvre by Biliant of Paris, and some exquisitely beautiful apparatus made, we believe, by Mr. Crible in Calcutta, to the rough and unsightly make-shifts put together in the Telegraph office. The result is, that while the operations are carried on with perfect certainty, and in all weathers, with simple contrivances which do not cost a Rupee a piece, it is found impossible to work for a day together with an apparatus in the least degree complicated. This arises from the incessant prevalence of lightning for several months together, and which affects some point or other of any extended line. Whatever may be the kind of instrument used, if there be a thunderstorm, thirty or forty miles off, the needles, or electro-magnets, are affected, and it becomes necessary to readjust or to remove a part of the apparatus. Unless this can be done instantly and without injury to the instrument, or unless a number of instruments are at hand for change, without a moment's delay, the use of the Electric Telegraph in Bengal becomes almost a hopeless undertaking. The little Telegraphs now used, are constructed upon the elementary principles of electricity, by a native in the office, within an hour. Half a dozen of them are always ready on the table, and they have often been changed, twice or thrice during the same thunderstorm. It is thus that Dr. O'Shaughnessy has been able to work in the teeth of the elements, while the costly and exquisite apparatus is found to be comparatively, if not altogether, useless.

As soon as the success of the line between Kedgeree and Calcutta has been completely demonstrated, the question will at once arise, whether Government is to stop there, or to make immediate arrangements for extending these operations, and connecting the most important towns at this Presidency with Calcutta. The sum required for a double line is 700 Rs., and for a single one 500 Rs., a mile, over or under-ground, as the localities may require. Now,

the Contract with the Railway Company provides that the "Rail shall, if required by the East India Company, and at such time, as they shall in writing require, be provided with an Electric Telegraph, constructed along all, or any part of the said Railway, and upon such principle (and to be under such regulations as to its use, and the terms of its use) as the East India Company shall in writing direct or approve of." The Court of Directors have now sanctioned the extension of the Railway from Calcutta to Mirzapore, and have fixed its direction, and the survey operations on that line are likely to begin as soon as a sufficient corps of Surveyors can be organized, but we cannot expect to see the opening of the line to that city next, a distance, by the circuitous route, of about 550 miles, for five or six years to come. It is for Government to determine, whether it is ready to wait for the Telegraph to Mirzapore till the Rail is complete, or begin and complete the line forthwith. The expense would be, in all, 3½, say, 4 lakhs of Rupees, and no more; and when sufficient time has been allowed for the collection of all the materials, it may be laid down at the rate of two miles a day, that is, in less than a year from the time when the field operations begin. It will, moreover, be easy so to plant the line that if it became necessary to deflect it hereafter, to correspond with the course of the Rail, no other expense would be incurred but that of removing the rods. The advantage to Government of shortening the communication with the North West, and the Punjab, by three or four days, would be sufficient to justify the payment of the expense of this line even from the funds of the state. The benefit of a telegraphic communication every hour, in a social and more particularly in a commercial point of view, between the Metropolis and Murdwan, Meerthoom, Moorshedabad, Rajshahi, Bhagulpore, Monghyr, Patna, Gajepore, Benares, and Mirzapore, would be incalculable. That such a line would pay—that is to say, that the amount received for messages, from private individuals and from the state, would defray all the expense of working it, and give five per cent. interest on the small capital expended on it, there can be no doubt. When the mind attempts to grasp the full extent of that beneficial change which three or four lakhs of Rupees thus judiciously laid out, would effect in the feelings and the intercourse of all classes of society, it can scarcely be kept from running into extravagance. Surely, if ever there can be any justification for foresting the tenth commandment of the Decalogue, and envying the Governor General his high and influential office, it must be on such an occasion as this, when a single stroke of his pen can confer so inestimable a boon on this great country, and its magnificent interests.

We have every reason to hope that when Lord Dalhousie is again among us, and has had an opportunity of witnessing the success of the new Telegraph, he will be led by the impulse of his own comprehensive mind to relieve Dr. O'Shaughnessy from the dull and mechanical labors of the assay office, and order him to go into the field, to lay down the rods between the great Mart, and the great Port of the Gangetic Valley. Hitherto, Dr. O'Shaughnessy has been laboring under great disadvantages. He has been able to give to these interesting operations only the small scraps of leisure he could snatch from the arduous duties of the Mint, and this fact serves in no small measure to enhance the gratitude which is due for his exertions. His work has been entirely a labor of love; the es-

thematic love of science. But it is time that he should be employed in a higher and more important vocation, and it is time also that Government should show the civilized world that it is able to appreciate its imperial responsibilities, by turning to public account the great talent which is to be found dormant in its Service.

How humiliating is it to think of the waste of its great scientific resources, which we have been and are still constrained to witness, — the first Botanical genius in India, a man whom Robert Brown and DeCandolle would have been proud to honor, sent down to physic the inhabitants of Malacca! We allude to Dr. Griffith. The first Geologist in the service, employed in examining the bodies of the Emigrants sent to the Mauritius and the West Indies, and in giving them a clean bill of health! We allude to Dr. McLelland. The first chemist and natural philosopher among us employed in the ambitious and important duty of weighing out pinheads of gold and silver at the Mint. Need we say that we allude to Dr. O'Shaughnessy?

**THE REPORT OF THE POST OFFICE COMMISSIONERS.**—We now proceed with our analysis of this Report, in the progress of which we arrive at the important question of STEAM POSTAGE TO AND FROM ENGLAND. The Commissioners state that the basis of their suggestions regarding this Postage, is the letter from Her Majesty's Post Master General, dated the 9th September 1850,—"the object of which is two-fold. First, to arrange for the payment, in one sum, of all the postage, steam and inland, chargeable on letters sent from England to their ultimate destination in India. Secondly, to make the payment of such consolidated postage optional." This communication is perhaps the most extraordinary, and certainly the most unaccountable, which has emanated from the General Post Office in London since it was reformed. It seems unaccountable that the Post Office authorities in England should so spontaneously and so generously offer to relieve the Post Offices in India from the labor of collecting their own inland postage on steam letters, and to receive it in London, and make it over to the East India Company. A reference to the date of this letter will render the proposal more surprising. It was written on the 9th September 1850, before it was known in England, that a uniform rate of postage had been dreamt of in India. At that period, we had not fewer than *seventeen* different rates of Indian postage, varying from half an anna to sixteen according to distance. Out of pure love and attachment to the Court of Directors, it seems, Col. Maberly proposed that an office should be opened at St. Martin le Grand for the collection of Indian inland postage; that in a department in which simplicity of procedure, and uniformity of rates, and economy of time were considered the chief elements of success, a body of clerks should be appointed to study the table of distances between the Presidencies and the five hundred and eighty places in the interior subordinate to them, and the variable rates charged to each place; that in regard to the 400,000 letters which are sent to India, the clerks were, in each individual case, to ascertain accurately the name of the place, consult the tables, and discover the rate of inland postage, and then to inform the party of the sum which must be paid, and require him to purchase a stamp of that figure, and affix it to the letter, and bring it back again. Is it to be believed that the London Post Office, in which simplicity and celerity are every thing, should, of its own accord

devise a complicated system which must have occasioned a greater loss of time in receiving and posting 400,000 letters, than in posting four Millions of ordinary letters? But what is still more incredible, is, that after have gone to the trouble of concocting so elaborate a plan, the Postal authorities at home should have left it optional with every individual to pay this consolidated postage, or to send the letter on at once to India without a farthing of prepayment!

Our own Post Office Commissioners have based their arrangements on this suggestion, and to bring it into conformity with their own uniform plan of postage, have proposed that every letter prepaid in England, shall be charged one shilling for steam postage, and *three pence* more for the Indian inland postage. The London Post Office proposed only to collect the inland postage on letters sent from England, but the Commissioners here have improved on this plan, and proposed that the London office shall also collect the inland postage on all letters sent to England from India. Lest we should be suspected of uncharitableness to them we quote the proposition in their own words: "We therefore propose that on all steamer letters sent to and from India there be charged according to the British scale of weight, such a rate of consolidated postage as shall enable Her Majesty's Post Master General to credit the East India Company with 2 annas or 3 pence, upon every letter not exceeding  $\frac{1}{4}$  an ounce in weight." The plain meaning of this sentence is, that on every letter sent from India, the Post Master in London shall credit the East India Company with two annas in addition to the steam postage; that is to say, that a letter sent from Agra to London is to pass through the Presidency without the payment of any inland postage, and that the London office is then to charge fifteen pence on it to the receiver, and transmit three pence of this sum to the treasury in Leadenhall Street. The present system of steam postage is surely complicated enough; but this will render it ten times more complicated, and cumbersome than ever. To this arrangement there are the most serious objections. The idea of making the addressee of a letter in England pay the Indian inland postage on the letters he receives, as well as on those he sends, and of making the London Post Office collect this postage for the benefit of the Indian exchequer, is so singularly preposterous, that we are disposed to think that the words "*from India*" must have crept into the report inadvertently. Be that as it may, we consider the infliction of Indian inland postage on the senders of letters in England as scarcely less objectionable. Fifteen pence on every letter posted in England will be felt as a very severe tax, and, as it is left optional to every one to pay the steam and inland postage at home, or to throw the burden on the receiver in India, the number of letters sent bearing to this country will be indefinitely increased, and the confusion of the postal department abundantly multiplied. The only plausible excuse for adopting the very unpalatable measure of saddling the sender in England with the payment of Indian inland postage is, the absolute necessity of abolishing all bearing letters in this country in order to maintain uniformity of system. But it is no part of the plan of the Commissioners to establish a system of absolute prepayment in India; they propose, on the contrary, to allow every one who chooses it to send any and every letter bearing. The plan they propose regarding the inland postage of Steam letters is therefore as unnecessary, as it is objectionable.

The whole scheme of steam postage detailed in the Report appears to be crude and complicated, and requires a thorough revision. We would propose in its stead that the receiver of every steam letter in India be required to pay the inland postage, according to its weight under the new system, and that the letter be sent bearing to its destination; also, that the sender of every India letter be required to pay the postage from his station to the Presidency, as in the case of every other letter, by means of a stamp. The steam postage of one shilling should be in every instance, be prepaid, whether in England or in India. Nothing would be easier than for the Post Office authorities in London to refuse every letter which had not a shilling stamp on it. This would inflict no hardship on the sender at home, while it would prevent the necessity of keeping up an elaborate system of accounts between the East India Company and the Post Office; it would also expedite in no ordinary degree the disposal of all letters, after their arrival in India, if the clerks had no stamp postage to ascertain and account for. Then, as respects the shilling steam stamps to be used in this country, compulsion would be easier than for the Court of Directors to purchase as many as were likely to be required for the year from the Post Office in London, and pay for the whole in a single cheque. These stamps would then be despatched to India and put in circulation through the medium of the Stamp Office, like all other letter stamps, and they would be purchased by those who had occasion to use them, just as the half anna, or anna, or other stamps are to be purchased. All accounts between the London and Indian Post Offices for steam letter stamps would thus terminate at once, and the labors of the Post Office would be abundantly simplified. If any individual in India wished to spare his friend at home the cost of stamps, he might enclose a number in his letter.

**STAMPS.**—The Post Office Commissioners propose to render the use of Letter stamps in all cases of prepayment, compulsion, and to allow of no money payment, except in the case of bearing letters. The number of stamps required for the country is calculated at 25 millions annually, and these stamps they suggest should be procured from England. They appear, moreover, to propose that the stamps should be made over to the Stamp department, and issued in the same manner as the judicial and documentary stamps are now distributed to the various Collectors, who are to be responsible for the number they receive. The Postal Stamps would then be sold at every Collectorate, and through the medium of its existing establishment of stamp vendors, and under the same arrangements. They would also be sold at every Post Office, the office accounting monthly to the Collector for those which had been received and disposed of. When district dawks have been established, it is also proposed to make them procurable at every Tehsil-dar and Thannah. All these arrangements will, we are sure, meet with the unanimous approbation of the whole community, European and Native; and we therefore pass on to the question of.

**PREPAYMENT.**—on which the Commissioners state, that the most perfect system of Post Office management, and the safest for the public, and the department, would be the compulsory prepayment of all letters by stamps. Such an arrangement was one of the main features of the original plan of Penny Postage in England, but Mr. Rowland Hill was induced to acquiesce in its partial postponement. "There exist in India circumstances which render the

full adoption of the system of prepayment more desirable than in England." The Report then goes on to detail in the most elaborate, and satisfactory manner, the great inconvenience of "bearing" letters, and the vast advantage which would accrue from a compulsory prepayment. The great bane of the present Indian Post Office system is the privilege, so inconsiderately granted in 1837, of sending letters bearing; the consequence has been, that while the proportion of letters in England sent bearing is only 2 per cent. in India it has risen to 57 per cent. The Post Office is thus saddled every year with the labor of going from door to door to collect the postage on *Six Millions of letters!* Strange to say, after the high economies passed on the principle of prepayment, and the well merited censure bestowed on the bearing system, the Commissioners propose that this most inconvenient, most preposterous, most abominable system should be continued. Their chief reason for adopting this singular proposition is the fear of "injury in some shape to the Post Office revenue,"—and there is nothing more remarkable in this Report, than the alternation of boldness and timidity which it exhibits. At the time when the Commissioners propose to risk nineteen-sixteenths of the whole Postal receipts of India, by reducing the rate of postage on single letters to half an anna, they shrink from the trifling percentage of loss which might be incurred at first in making the prepayment of so small a sum imperative. With regard to the introduction of stamps, they observe, that "in the course of a week, the system would be understood by every one having occasion to write a letter. If the introduction of postage stamps were accompanied by a reduction in the rates of postage, the people would connect the two, and consider it an inestimable boon.... There might be some little misunderstanding at first, but the people would soon become accustomed to them." Now, the Government will find, on a little reflection, that this argument applies with ten-fold force to the system of prepayment. If the enforcement of this new principle be in any degree unpalatable, surely the most appropriate reason for the introduction of it is the period of effecting a great reduction in the rates of postage, and enabling a man to send a letter 2,500 miles for two pice; the people would not fail to connect the two, and "consider it an inestimable boon." There might, perhaps, be a little misunderstanding, and even inconvenience, at first, but the people would soon become accustomed to the system. We consider that no risk can be too great for the accomplishment of so great an improvement as the utter abolition of the inconceivable nuisance of having six millions of letters sent bearing. We must not forget that all the letters now sent bearing, are, of course, taken by the parties to the Post Office; nothing, therefore, would be easier than to inform them of the necessity of purchasing a half-anna stamp, and affixing it to the letter to secure its reception. There can be no doubt that within the limits of a single month, perhaps in less time, the same number of letters would be sent with the stamp, which are now sent bearing. The native community would soon accommodate itself to the new economy, and those who did not wish to inflict the cost of postage on their friends, would enclose a stamp. The mode which the Report devises for gradually extinguishing the evil, appears to be the most singular instance of official hallucination we have seen for a long time. The Commissioners propose to levy *double postage* on the party who re-

ceives the letter; though they do not explain how this is to affect a reform in the sender. If the delinquent who violated the principle, and who subjected the department to the severest inconvenience was personally visited with a penalty, we might naturally expect that he would be induced to abandon the system; but to inflict the penalty on the victim, and allow the sender to go scot free, is merely to perpetuate the nuisance.

The Commissioners remark, "we are apprehensive that the supply of stamps, may at all events, at first, and in the minor offices, be sometimes insufficient, and as we could not recommend that under these circumstances, there should be a cessation, however temporary, of the functions of the post, it becomes necessary to devise some means by which, under such circumstances, the department may be secured from loss, and the public from inconvenience, with the least possible infringement of the principle of avoiding money payment." Hence they propose to allow letters to be sent unpaid, *ad libitum*. This is a very good argument for not introducing the stamp system at all, till there is a year's supply of stamps on hand, but it is no argument for allowing an evasion of the stamp postage, when stamps may at any time be procured for two pice at the Post Office, the Collectorate, and the shops of the stamp vendors. Moreover, under the rule proposed by the Commissioners, every one of the ten million letters now despatched may be sent bearing, and it is difficult to conceive how this can be considered, "the least possible infringement of the principle of avoiding money payments." It allows the entire abolition of the principle in every case, and that in a manner the most inconvenient to the department; namely, that of collecting money payments, from house to house, instead of receiving them at once at the office. If at any time there should happen to be a deficiency of stamps in a district, it would be far better to receive money at the office before the letter was sent, in lieu of the stamp, as a temporary shift, than to inflict on the office to which it is despatched, the labor of collecting that sum. To allow people to send their letters bearing, on the ground that "the supply of stamps might be insufficient," and then to constrain the receiver to pay double for the lack of the Post Office department, is an act of which it is not so very easy to perceive the equity. It is better to meet the difficulty at once and to overcome it for ever, by introducing compulsory prepayment in conjunction with the system of reduced rates and postal stamps. If this golden opportunity be lost, the difficulty of bringing it into operation hereafter will be found far more arduous, and the measure itself will be more unpopular.

The Post Office Commissioners conclude this portion of their report, by stating their conviction that the infliction of double postage on the innocent receiver of a bearing letter will produce such a reform in the delinquent senders, that the number of bearing letters will be reduced from 57 to 2 per cent. They consider that the penalty of double postage, combined with a low uniform rate of postage, will discourage the practice to the same extent as in England. This assumption is, we are satisfied, founded on an entire delusion, as their own tables will indisputably shew. For, if the practice of sending letters bearing, had been adopted by the natives chiefly in the case of distant stations to which the postage was heavy, the reduction of the rates now proposed might have been expected to produce a reform. But, the facts—Vide Appendix A. No. 2—that, of 86,135

letters sent, in four weeks, to a distance not exceeding 100 miles, and therefore chargeable only with the postage of half an anna, or of one anna at the farthest, 64,284, or more than two-thirds, were sent bearing. The low uniform rate of postage is not likely therefore to produce the least effect whatever in reducing the number of bearing letters. The Natives will continue to send them unpaid, first, because they abhor all payments, and, secondly, because confusion is as natural to them as simplicity is hateful. The evil will increase with the augmentation of correspondence which the reduction of rate may produce, and the Post Office will soon be obliged annually to collect, a *peal postage on Three Millions of letters, from door to door*. There is but one mode of getting rid of the bearing system, and that is by a peremptory, total, and immediate abolition of it.

Connected with this subject, is that of allowing letters to be received with an inadequate stamp, and then charging the unfortunate receiver with double postage. This rule appears to us to exhibit a false delicacy towards the delinquent, to inflict an unjust penalty on the innocent, and unnecessarily and wantonly to complicate the movements of the department. If the natives were now for the first time required to attend to the weight of their letters, there might be some palliation of the rule—it might be said that, as the natives were unaccustomed to sort their letters by seals, it would be harsh to refuse letters posted in ignorance of their actual weight; but on a reference to the tables in the Appendix, we find that out of 800,000 letters, law papers and newspapers, &c. despatched from all the Post Offices in the North West Provinces in four weeks, 244,000 were sent not exceeding a total. In every such case, the sender must have ascertained the exact weight of his letter before it was posted, and we conclude therefore that the natives are fully aware of the quarter to which weight system. Under the new regime each letter is still to be weighed after its receipt at the Post Office, and if the stamp be found inadequate, it is to be sent on to the destination, in order that double the amount of the deficiency, may be levied from the receiver. How much more simple would it be to weigh the letter the moment it was presented, in the presence of the person who brought it, and when the stamp was found deficient to inform him that an additional stamp was required, which he could obtain in two minutes from the stamp vendor, in an adjoining room, and affix to the letter. This process would not cost the office more than 30 seconds of time, and it would obviate the necessity of keeping accounts with all the offices to which such bearing letters were sent, whereas the collection of postage from the receiver, as the Report in another place informs us, often occasions the loss of Ten minutes for a single letter.

Here we must again break off, pleading with our readers the great and general importance of the question as an excuse for the length of our comments.

**THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.**—It has been known for some time, that Mr. Lushington, the Railway Commissioner, having nearly completed his labors on the first Section of the Rail, and sent in a Report of his proceedings, had been requested to join the officiating appointment of Secretary to the Boulder Board of Revenue, to which Lord Dalhousie had nominated him, and that Mr. Drummond, the Collector of Burdwan, had been appointed to take charge of the Railway operations. The arrangement required the Governor General's appro-



val, of which no doubt was entertained; unfortunately, however, intelligence was received last week that the appointment had been negatived. This reversal of the proceedings of the Bengal Government has created no small surprise, and considerable disappointment. It has been surmised that Lord Dalhousie fancied there was the distant scent of a job, but upon what ground this opinion was formed it is impossible to conjecture. That Mr. Lushington should quit the Rail, and assume charge of the office to which he had been appointed, as such as his duties on the first section of the Rail were considered complete, appeared to arise so naturally out of the nature of circumstances, that it is almost impossible to perceive any objection to it. We believe his allowances on the Rail and at the Board, would have been nearly, if not entirely, equal. If there was any difference in favor of the Secretaryship of the Board, it was so insignificant as to render any idea of jobbery preposterous. On the other hand the post of Railway Commissioner, whatever it might become vacant, had, by common consent, been destined to Mr. Drummond, as the fittest man in Bengal for it. Whenever an office appears to be so eminently adapted to the qualifications of the man, as it is in the present instance, even the suspicion of a job is excluded. Moreover, the larger portion of the second section of the line will run through the district of Burdwan, with the circumstances of which Mr. Drummond, who is the Collector, must necessarily be far better acquainted than any other officer. Lord Dalhousie has committed very few mistakes in the administration of this empire; but this is, unfortunately, one of the most conspicuous of them, and it is to be attributed entirely to his long residence—three years out of the four of his incumbency—at Simlah. Had he been among us, and been as well acquainted with all the local circumstances of the case, so those who are living in the circle of the Railway operations, this error could not have occurred. We speak with the more confidence in this matter, because we happen to know much more than can possibly be known at Simlah, and because we have such perfect reliance on Lord Dalhousie's clear and rapid perception of whatever is most fit to be done on every occasion, and his straightforwardness and energy, as to feel certain that nothing was wanting but the advantage of being on the spot, to have secured his approbation of the appointment. The circumstance to which we now refer, affords another proof of the impossibility of governing Bengal, from Simlah, with any hope of success, and the necessity of giving it a Government for itself, and in itself, with the same authority as the Governments of Madras and Bombay, and it furnishes one of the most pregnant arguments for the entire separation of this Government from that of India at the time of the Charter.

**THE NEW EVIDENCE ACT.**—A friend in the interior of the country, who is employed in the unthankful office of preventing rogues, and apprehending and punishing rogues, has requested us to importune the Legislative Council to extend the New Evidence Act, which is about to become law, to the Criminal Courts. According to the draft, its operation is to be limited to the Civil Courts. As the law now stands, it is felt in many cases to be difficult to bring up witnesses in the Criminal Courts without acting illegally. On turning to *Beaufort's Guide*, Section 810, we find that the summons must have been actually served on the witness, but this can always be evaded by the contrivance of the pedlar. The seventh Sec-

tion of the proposed Act provides for this contingency by allowing the proclamation and the consequent fine to take place, whether the summons has been personally served or not, and it is argued with much apparent reason that the improvement ought to be extended also to the Criminal Courts.

**TABLET TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE REV. MICHAEL HILL.**—We desire to call the attention of our readers to a letter which appears among our correspondence regarding the tablet which it is proposed to erect to Mr. Hill in the Mission Chapel at Berhampore. He labored as a Missionary at that station, with a degree of zeal and assiduity seldom equalled, for a period little short of a quarter of a century, and acquired the respect and esteem of all who were able to appreciate such disinterested labors. Surely some memorial ought to be erected to commemorate these exertions in the sanctuary which was so long the scene of his ministrations; and we feel confident that his numerous surviving friends in various parts of the country will be most happy to assist in the erection of a mural tablet. The letter states that subscriptions may be forwarded to the address of the Rev. James Bradbury, Berhampore, and it will afford us much pleasure to be made the channel of conveying them.

**THE DUCKS HAVE GONE A-HEAD OF THE QUAILIES,** for once, as far at least, as Railway matters are concerned. The Directors of the Bombay line confidently expect to place the first Engine, and the first train on the first Railway in India in the latter end of January, 1852, or about three months from this time; when they will open the line between Brculna and Sion, a distance of about — miles. A large Engine, called the Falkland, built by Robert Stephenson, and subsequently exhibited in the Crystal Palace, is already on its way to Bombay, with its accompanying train. The Engine "is a short boiler Engine with 178 tubes, 10 feet 4 inches long, and a smokestack exposed to the fire of 734 feet." The builder guarantees that it will ascend an incline of one in fifty without assistance, and its average speed with a passenger train will be forty miles an hour. The train consists of nine carriages, four first class, and five second class, with a "composite" carriage of great size, and uniting all three classes, constructed apparently upon the plan of the cars used on the American Railways. As it was believed that there might be some difficulty in putting the Engine together at Bombay—and an Engine, according to Mr. Stephenson, requires to be put together as accurately as a watch—it was shipped all standing, together with the carriages. The bulwarks of the *John Trent* were knocked down, and rails laid fore and aft, so that the locomotive, tender, and train stood in the vessel as upon an ordinary Rail. As soon as the line is completed between the two places mentioned above, the Engine will run twice a day, and natives will be allowed to ride without fee in the "composite" carriage, to familiarize them with the machinery.

All these particulars are taken from the *Bombay Telegraph and Courier*, and we congratulate our brethren of the West on the advances they have made. In Bengal also, the Railway, though far from being ready for a train, is progressing rapidly towards completion. The whole of the earth-works as far as Pandooah will, we believe, be completed early in 1852, but the soil of Bengal is not like that of Bombay, and the process of ballasting the

line will probably be as long, as difficult, and as expensive as that of making the embankment. The loss of time thus occasioned, is not, however, to be regretted, as a line which is to be exposed to the rains of Bengal, and which passes over some hundreds of tanks, will not be the worse for an entire rainy season in which to "settle," though we have heard it affirmed that the passage of a heavy train along its surface will settle it with sufficient rapidity. The activity of the contractors, and the failure of the harvest, have concentrated nearly ten thousand workmen on the line, and there is no probability that the number will be diminished for months to come. There are good grounds therefore for hoping that an Express train may be started before the end of 1853.

**THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY,** are going ahead in right good earnest. It is impossible to peruse the following statement regarding the exertions they are now making to meet the expectations of the public, by improving the communication which has been entrusted to them, without a glow of the most lively satisfaction. To them we now it seems, to be indebted for the *largest ship in the world*. Messrs. C. Mackenzie & Co. of Blackwall have now contracted to build for them an Iron Steamer, 325 feet in length, measuring 3000 tons, with four engines of the aggregate power of 1200 horses, which will give an average speed of 14 knots an hour. She will be 61 feet longer than the *Great Britain*, which was at first considered too large and unwieldy a vessel for ocean navigation, and 90 feet longer than the longest of Cunard's vessels. But this new steamer, we are happy to learn, is to be considered as the solitary effort of a spasmodic movement created by the dread of competition, but "the first of an improved class of Steam ships to be constructed by this Company for the East India Mail and Packet Service." In time, therefore, we may expect that as the older vessels are rendered unserviceable by age, their places will be supplied by other vessels of the same magnitude and power as this now on the stocks. This vessel is expected to accomplish the distance between Southampton and Alexandria, 3100 miles, in nine days. The distance between Suet and Calcutta is 3785, and allowing for stoppages, the voyage between these two ports with so magnificent a vessel, ought not to occupy more than fifteen days. If we give one day for the passage across Egypt, when the rail is completed, we shall have London brought within *Twenty-five days* of Calcutta, and *Twenty days* of Bombay, and this within thirty years of the time when a large meeting was held in Calcutta, to encourage steam communication to India, and a large premium was voted by acclamation for the surveyor of the first letter to any port in India from England in *Seventy days*. It does not in the smallest degree detract from the merit of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, that they have been roused to these noble exertions by the trumpet of competition. It is in accordance with the nature of man and the order of Providence, that competition should produce such an impulse, but it is infinitely to the credit of the Company that when thus roused to a sense of their duties, they should have determined even to surpass the highest expectations of the public.

#### THE LARGEST SHIP IN THE WORLD.

Messrs. C. Mares and Co., the Ship-builders of Orchard Yard, Blackwall, and Messrs. Penn of Greenwich, Engineers, have taken a contract to construct for the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation

Company, an Iron Steam Ship of the following dimensions and power, viz.

Length between the perpendiculars, 325 feet.

Breadth of Beam, ... .. 45 feet.

Depth, ... .. 82 feet.

She will measure about 4,000 tons, and will be propelled by four Engines of the collective working power of 1,200 Horses. Will have feathering paddle wheels, and a guaranteed average speed of 14 knots, equal to 18 statute miles per hour.

Some idea may be formed of the size of this gigantic vessel, when it is compared with that of some of the existing Steam Ships most celebrated for their large size. She will be 21 feet longer than the *Great Britain*, 60 feet longer than the largest of the *Cunard* or *North American Mail Steamers*, the *Asia* and *Africa*, 40 feet longer than the large Steamers such as the *Parana*, *Orizaba*, &c., now constructing for the Royal Mail Company, and 100 feet longer and 500 tons larger than the *Calcutta*, first rate of 120 guns.

She is the first of an improved class of Steam Ships about to be constructed by the Peninsular and Oriental Company for the East India Mail and Passenger service, and it is confidently estimated, that she will effect the passage between Southampton and Alexandria, in 25 days, and in 10 days to Calcutta. The passenger accommodation in these vessels is to be on the most spacious scale, and replete with every comfort and convenience.

A new Screw Steamer, capable of carrying 400 tons of cargo, or about 1,700 chests of Opium, has lately been purchased by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, to be dispatched to Calcutta for employment on the Direct Calcutta and China Line.

The *Pottinger* of 1,100 Tons and 200 Horse power, was to leave England about the middle of October to assist in carrying on the Line of Steam Communication from this port.

The *Mails* of 1,225 Tons and 450 Horse power, may be expected here from Bombay at the commencement of December, and will, most probably take the Extra Trip to Suez on the 20th of that month.

The *Preceptor* will, as already advertised, leave Garden Reach on Tuesday next, the 21st instant, at 6 A. M. precisely, as the additional October steamer for Suez.

In a few days the *Hindustan* will come out of Dock, after having undergone an entire re-coppering, and will take her regular tour on the 8th November for Suez.

The *Erin*, now having nearly completed her repairs will be undocked on Sunday next, and will open the Calcutta and China Line on the 2nd November.

**THE OPTIMIST.**—The *Optimist* has announced his own approaching dissolution, which will take place "from causes beyond his own control" in the beginning of November. We are sorry that Mr. L. should have been compelled to relinquish his undertaking, for which so much we differed from the *Optimist* on many points, it has always been conducted in an entertaining, fair, and gentlemanly spirit.

Our regret is, however, in no small degree diminished by the re-appearance of the veritable *Optimist*, as full of life, and piquancy as ever.

#### WEEKLY EPILOGUE OF NEWS.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16.

—The *Calcutta Morning Chronicle* mentions, that Mr. W. R. Young, the gentleman who was so barbarously treated by the *Aden Arabs*, has arrived in Calcutta by the *Preceptor*. He is, it appears, permanently cured by the beating he received, though, fortunately for himself, the marks are not particularly disagreeing. It is allowed on all hands, that Mr. Young gave the Arabs no provocation whatever that could in any degree excite his conduct.

—The same journal reports that a number of notes in the possession of a respectable member of Calcutta have been discovered to be forged, the value having been most liberally rated from ten to one thousand Rupees. The notes had been received from *Almuta*, where it is said "stamped notes" had been advertised as having been stolen, have consequently been sent with.

—We must not omit to mention that Mr. Hobbs, the American locomotive, who in spite of Mr. Cribb's denials, would appear to have picked his locks, has been awarded the celebrated *Bramah* lock, and has been awarded the price of £200 offered by any one who should perform the feat. Messrs. Bramah and Co., however, declare that *Bramah* has not been used, and that if the wards had been of steel instead of iron, it would have been impossible to open it.

—The *Calcutta Gazette* of Wednesday, the 15th instant, contains the following notice from the Government relating to spirituous and intoxicating liquors, drugs, and preparations within the Bombay Presidency. It is of only local interest.

The *Harkness* notices that the extra steamers of the Peninsular and Oriental Company have begun to attract attention, and the *Preceptor* brings out a considerable number of passengers. The increase of traffic on the *Overland* route does not, however, appear to affect the sailing vessels, Green's magnificent ships being as full as ever. We doubt whether even a reduction in the rates of the Peninsular and Oriental Company would affect Green's ships, though the long looked for alteration of the rates for *lock* have possibly might.

—News from the Cape to the 29th August has been received in Calcutta, viz. the Mauritius, and it is evident that the war is going against the British. The Kaffirs are already on the hills around Grahamstown, and the districts of Somerset and Albany are completely overgrown with Kaffirs, very violent who fall to the hands. Reinforcements were daily expected from England.

The *Lahore Chronicle* reports that the dervish runner employed to convey the Mail between Ajak Peshawar was waylaid on the 1st October, and robbed of one rupee, the only property he had about him. His letter bags were opened, but the plunderers not being of a literary turn, threw them back to him, when they were found to contain no money, and suffered him to proceed with his Mail.

The *Agre* Messenger has suggested a reason, which appears to be valid, for the delay which has taken place in making messes compulsory in the Bengal Army. In section 10 of the Mutiny Act occurs the following rule:—"Be it enacted, that no Paymaster or other person shall receive any pay, or make any deductions whatsoever out of the Pay or Allowance of any Officer or Soldier in the East India Company's Service, or from their Agents, before the several deductions or other charges are deducted as they from time to time be required to be made, according to the Regulations of the Service; and every Paymaster or other person having received any Officer's or Soldier's Pay and Allowance, who shall unlawfully detain the same for the space of one month, or refuse to pay the same when it shall become due, according to the several rates and agreements in the Regulations established by the Rules of the Service, shall, upon proof thereof before a Court Martial, be discharged from his employment, and shall forfeit one thousand Company's Rupees, and be liable to such further punishment as shall by the Court Martial be awarded. And we are to understand from this quotation that Indian authority has any power to make messes compulsory, without a special Act of Parliament?

—We are happy to see, that the P. and O. Company have presented the sum of Rs. 2,000 to the fund for the erection of a new Sallie's Home.

—The *Englisman* states, that a Court of Inquiry will shortly be appointed to investigate the proceedings on board a ship, which recently brought out a number of European troops. It is said, that the Court Martial on board during the voyage was incompetent, and that a court-martial is being formed to mention the number of men reported to have been flogged.

—The same journal reports that the *Kist*, Captain *Preceptor*, with nearly three hundred recruits on board, caught fire in the Bay of Biscay, and the Captain fell by his horror, that his boats would only contain 120 men. Fortunately, the flames were extinguished, but the crew were obliged to be a warning not to allow vessels to leave harbour without an ample equipment of boats.

—The *Bombay Gazette* and the *Englisman* announce the visit of the *Preceptor* and French ship, bound from Pondicherry to Calcutta. She struck on the northern ledge of the *Cardagao*, on the 31st July, and broke up so rapidly, that the crew were unable even to save any provisions. They, together with the passengers, amounting to more than three ladies, remained for nearly six weeks upon the island, subsisting entirely on sea birds and their eggs. On the 11th September, they were taken off by the *Jacobite* *Hercules*, in whose officers and passengers they return their cordial thanks for their kindness and consideration. They are all taken back to the Mauritius.

—The *Hyderabad* correspondent of the *Englisman* believes that Seraj-ud-Mulk, the minister of Hyderabad, will be able to raise the remaining forty lakhs required to complete the payment of the debt due by him to the Government of the Nizam, by the aid of the Nizam, a well known officer, is of a different opinion. The *Hyderabad*, it is said, positively refused to discuss his *Araks*, though he is "willing to restrain them by a just severity." A native paper reports that the *Rail Khat* is to be enlarged at the expense of Government.

—The *Overland Commercial-Gazette*, a Maritime journal, mentions that a Board of Health for the island has at length been established, and that the Members of the Council were fully apprised, that the Board might possibly pass a little legislation on Medical subjects and on the Quarantine laws, and they refused to consent to the proposition unless the object of the Board was describing the nature of their duties was modified. It had originally been a Board "to frame regulations and to superintend all matters relating to quarantine," but this was exchanged for "to frame regulations as to quarantine and to provide for the execution of the law relating to quarantine."

—Mr. Caird, the emigration Agent for the Mauritius, has written to the Government of that island to expedite himself from the charge of having caused the suspension of emigration from Calcutta during certain months of the year.

—The *Lahore Chronicle* reports, that the health of the Maharajah of Kashmir is gradually becoming worse, and that an European Medical officer will shortly be sent to Junnoo.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19.

The *Calcutta Morning Chronicle* corrects a statement made by Captain Chyng of the *Etzabek*, a Green-coat vessel, who has informed his owners that he was compelled to put into Port Louis for want of provisions, and that the value on board having become unmanageable, and the officers refusing to restrain them. Our contemporary, on the contrary, affirms, on the authority of private letters, that the officers of the *Etzabek* were not in any intention of all the charges brought by Captain Chyng, and that the vessel was disgracefully supplied.

The *Lahore Chronicle* states that Sir George Clerk will return to India, Governor of Bombay, on the departure of Lord Falkland, whose five years term will expire in May 1853. Sir George Clerk was beyond question one of the best Governors Bombay ever possessed, but his resignation is by no means so probable, unless indeed his health should have been completely re-established. He is of the same standing as Sir Frederick Currie, and therefore quite young enough for the fatigue and responsibility of office.

—Captain H. Lewis of the *Barque Champion*, has addressed a letter to the *Englisman*, containing an account of the injuries, amputations, and deaths, which he has been subjected by the Governor of Rangoon. The letter is long for our columns, but after making all due allowance for an ex parte statement, it is evident that Capt. Lewis has been harassed by the Governor of Rangoon, and a rowed intention of extorting money. A series of protracted charges were entertained, and after Captain Lewis had been ordered into the presence of the Governor twenty-four times, and he was allowed to depart. The Governor of Rangoon appears to grow more and more insolent from long impunity, but our Government is apparently determined not to interfere, and we can only hope, therefore, that the Government will be induced to treat an American Captain as he has treated Captain Lewis. The Americans would soon blow Rangoon down about his ears.

—The Lucknow correspondent of the *Englisman* states, that it is provided in the original treaty between the British and the King of Oude, that any misgoverned district may be taken up by the Company, the balance of revenue being repaid to the King. We wish some means could be found by publishing a collection of our treaties with native states in extenso. At present, we believe, there are not three officers in the Company's service, who know the exact position of all the Native States in reference to the British Government, and "Sutherland's Princes of India," the only source of such information accessible to the public, is an imperfect and out of date work, and needs a second and improved edition at the time of its death.

—The *Englisman* quotes a paragraph, apparently translated from a native paper, stating that a fight occurred at Pandour, between the British and the Mahomedans and Hindoos of the place, in which several of the latter were severely wounded. The dispute arose from the Hindoos having introduced the worship of Durga into the village. We understand this statement, circumstantial as it appears, is without foundation. A fight was talked of, but it did not come off.

The *Harkness* reports that a great alteration has taken place at Bangalore point, the sea having washed away a great quantity of land and jungle. It is now difficult to obtain an entrance into the *Khal* at low water. In that case, Government must pass before the new Light is erected there.

—A correspondent of the *Madras Advertiser* complains that in the seven outbreaks of the *Holera* in 1841, there have been 100,000 deaths, 100,000 Europeans and three Native officers, six Privates, and fifteen *Boys*, besides fifty or sixty unoffending Hindoos, killed.

—The *Bombay Gazette* records with no appropriate expressions of condolence the sudden demise of General Wylie, commanding for the month of October, the former permission relative to the wearing of white jackets by the garrison. We will not say that the General would say to the *Hindoo* of the *Boys* soldiers in Calcutta, as we see, a blouse and a straw hat, yet they do not appear to fight the wars because their costume is not to the exigencies of the climate. The *Bombay Times* in its issue points the two letters of the General, the



1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.













**AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.**

CALCUTTA AGENCY.

**T**HE Calcutta branch of the Agricultural and United Service Bank, in addition to ordinary Banking business, and loans on the security of approved Securities and Life Insurance, makes advances on the pledge and deposit of Govt. Paper, Shares of the Bank of Bengal, and other approved assignable Joint Stock Certificates.

ney Agency in all its branches including sale and

Money Agency in all its branches including sale and purchase of Government Securities, and Joint Stock, with the receipt of interest and dividends thereon, transacted by the Calcutta Agent : who is also empowered by the Directors to draw on the Bank's London Agent, (Capt. R. G. Macleod), 15, Old Jewry Chambers, as follows :

ВХСЛАНСК. а. с.

Six months' sight,	...	...	2	0	per Co.'s Rupee
Four " "	...	...	2	0	"
Three " "	...	...	2	0	"
Two " "	...	...	2	0	"
One " "	...	...	2	0	"
At sight,	...	...	2	0	"

required by parties proceeding to Europe Overland

The bank warrants letters of credit on their American side under 12 1/2 per cent, which will be negotiated at the corresponding rate at the following places:—at Alexandria and Cairo, by Messrs. Bugeat et Co.; at Nubia by Messrs. Bell and Co.; at Tripoli, by Messrs. Faister and Co.; at Paris, by Monsieur Ferret-Lafitte.

discount the Bank's bill at the current rate.

No commission is charged on current accounts opened with the London Agent, and interest at the rate of 2 per cent. is allowed on monthly minimum credit balances in excess of £500 sterling.

INTEREST DEPOSIT RULES.  
 sums deposited for 12 months certain subject to 6

(On ditto deposited for 6 months certain, subject to ninety days' notice of withdrawal (open to Shareholders only, interest allowed at 6 per cent. per annum.

at 4 per cent. per annum.

On Home remittance deposit, payable on demand, by Bills on London, (also open to all), at  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. per annum.

The funds of all public bodies connected with the service, and of such other Societies as the Directors may consider eligible for the same privileges, will be received by them.

bank, at its highest rate of interest for the time being.

The Bank reserves to itself the right of paying off all interest deposits, and of modifying the terms thereof, on giving one month's notice.

the proceeds of shares, the amount of dividends (as received in Ireland), the interest on deposit accounts, the

No. 5, Wellesley Place,  
Calcutta, Oct. 11, 1851. }  
By order of the Directors. }  
M. BALFOUR. }  
Offg. Agent }

Age Group	Total (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)	Unknown (%)
18-24	25	25	25	25
25-34	20	20	20	20
35-44	15	15	15	15
45-54	10	10	10	10
55-64	5	5	5	5
65+	5	5	5	5

**AGRA AND UNITED SERVICE BANK.**  
(ESTABLISHED AT AGRA, 1ST JULY, 1883.)  
PARENT INSTITUTION AT AGRA, (EAST INDIES,  
AGENCIES AT LONDON, CALCUTTA, MADRAS,

LONDON AGENCY 15, OLD JEWRY, CITY.

*Local Committee.*  
Major-General D. McLeod, Chairman (Bengal Engineers).  
Major H. Doraton, —Major J. H. MacDonald, —G. G.  
Macpherson, Esq., —Major Wm. Turner, and Major H. B.  
Henderson.

April :—

1. Current Accounts opened with Individuals and Firms, and Money Agency of every description transacted.
2. Interest at 2 per cent. per annum is allowed on Current or Floating accounts, when the monthly minimum balance at credit is not less than £100; broken periods of the month of lodgment and withdrawal being omitted.

Deposits for Six and Twelve months certain (at this

4. No Commission is charged on Home Current and Deposit Accounts, except where the monthly minimum balance at credit is not more than £60, when half per cent commission is charged on all sums on the debtor side of the

Sales and Purchases effected in British and Foreign

6. Army, Navy, and Civil Pay and Pensions realized at the India House, &c., free of Commission, except what may be chargeable under Rule 4 as above.

Other particulars can be ascertained on application.

to the Agent, and a list of Proprietors and the Directors Reports sent to the Office. By order of the Committee.  
17th May, 1850. R. G. MAORINER, Agent

Branches at Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.

The Agency also buys approved Bills drawn against funds, or upon parties, in India; and sends out for Collection and remittance Bills payable in India.

and published at the Serampore Press by  
 for the Editor every Thursday morning

Price 2 Rs. monthly or 20 Rs. a year, if paid in advance.  
Subscriptions will be received at *Messrs. J. A. L. & Co.,* at *Hombay*, by *Messrs. L. & Co.,* in *Colombo*, by *Messrs. G. & Co.* and in *London*, by *Messrs. W. H. Allen and Co.*

**Abstract:**

# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

No. 878. Vol. XVII.]

SERAMPORE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1851.

{ Price 2 1/2 cts. Rs. monthly or 30  
Rs. yearly if paid in advance.

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATION.

EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER  
"ATMANTHA," SUNDAY FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that  
the Mail for Suva, and the intermediate Ports  
(Malina, Ceylon, Aden, Bombay, Singapore and Hong-  
kong), intended for transmission by the P. and O.  
and General Company's Steam Vessel ATMANTHA will  
be cleared at this Office, on Friday, the 2nd Proximo,  
and that no other public will be despatched before  
on Saturday, the 3rd Proximo, with the ordinary Mail, to  
enable its arrival at Belknap, in time to reach the  
Passenger. The public are respectfully requested to note  
that no letters for the ATMANTHA can be received  
after 3 P. M. of that date.

J. R. HAMILTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, the 10th October, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the Friend of India begs to acknowledge  
the following Donation:—  
From "F + Co's" Rs. 10, for Mrs. Brett.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S RETURN.—Our  
young brother, the *Benares Recorder*, has pub-  
lished a running comment, on our relation to  
the removal of the seat of Government  
to Simlah, and we are bound to offer him our  
acknowledgments for the honor which he doubt-  
less intended to confer on us. But he has  
sadly misunderstood us when he asks, "What  
should keep the Governor General, then, any  
longer away from Calcutta, when they don't  
miss him, and don't want him?" If he had  
read the article with any degree of attention,  
he would have perceived, that we desired a  
Government of Bengal separate from the Gov-  
ernment of India, and clothed with sufficient  
authority to act in every case with efficiency,  
and not only to smother delinquents, but to encour-  
age merit. It was only in the hope of our being  
able to secure such an arrangement to the pre-  
sident of the new Charter, that we said that we  
could dispense with the assistance of the Gov-  
ernor General, and the Council and the Secretaries  
among us. But until we obtain this auspicious  
innovation, the absence of the head of the  
Government is a source of the greatest incon-  
venience, and creates a just feeling of dissa-  
tisfaction. For the next two years and a half,  
therefore, we want the head of Government at  
the seat of Government. The matchless pro-  
gress of the age is forcing itself on the atten-  
tion even of the Government of India, and we  
require the presence of one who can appreciate  
the spirit of the times, and impart the benefit of  
his impulse to our administration. It is humili-  
ating to think that we should be lying at our  
old anchors, while the spring tide of improve-  
ment is rising around us. Hence, we look  
forward with the highest expectation to the  
return of the Governor General to Calcutta,  
and to his sojourn here for a twelvemonth. We  
want him for the new Criminal Code, for  
though the Court of Directors have reserved  
the final decision on this great measure to  
themselves, the adoption of the Code will be  
abundantly expedited by the reunion of the  
Governor General and the Council. We want  
him for the Postal improvements, recommended  
in the Report of the Commissioners. We want  
him to lubricate the operations of the Railway  
undertaking, with all the details of which he  
is so fully acquainted, and to dispense with  
those checks, which sometimes threaten to end  
in great waste. We want him for the exten-  
sion of the Electric Telegraph to Minsapore.  
We want the diffusion of his energy through

every department of the administration. We  
want that combination of clear intellect, strong  
resolution, and supreme authority, which is  
necessary to restore the respect of the public  
service and the confidence of the public to our  
Government.

THE DISSENTER'S MARRIAGE ACT.—The draft  
of an Act for giving effect to the provision of  
the Act of Parliament for Marriages in India,  
passed on the 24th of July last, has just appear-  
ed in the *Gazette*, and is to be considered after  
the 17th of December next, with the view of its  
coming into operation on the 1st of January  
next. We lose no time in offering a few remarks  
on it.

The original draft of a bill for marriages in  
India, drawn up by the London Commissioners,  
provided that the parties intending marriage  
should state "the place where the marriage is  
to be solemnized;" in the notice of marriage; and  
that this place should be indicated also in the Regis-  
trar's certificate; and a column was, therefore,  
appropriated for this entry by the Commissioners  
in both those documents. This rule was  
founded upon the wish which Dissenters would  
naturally feel to have their marriages solemnized  
in the sanctuary where they were accustomed  
to meet for the worship of God. Our liberal  
Legislative Council, acting under the influence  
of Mr. Bethune, their Legislative Mentor, deter-  
mined that Dissenters from the Church of  
England should be married in the Court House,  
or, if the Judge graciously permitted it, in his  
house. The Commissioners at home had too  
much respect for the feelings of others to allow  
so insulting a clause to stand. It was therefore  
struck out, but unfortunately, some memorial  
in the absence of a Registrar of the District in  
which such marriage is solemnized, or who shall  
knowingly or wilfully solemnize any marriage  
after the said 1st day of January, 1853, where  
one of the parties to such marriage (not being a  
widower or widow) is under 21 years of age  
within fourteen days after the entry of the no-  
tice of marriage as aforesaid, shall be guilty of  
felony." Is it intended hereby to render the  
solemnization of all marriages between Chris-  
tians, otherwise than according to the provisions  
of this Act—with the exception of those specia-  
lly excepted by the Act of Parliament—an  
act of felony? Most sincerely do we hope  
that such is its scope and design. Nothing  
would be more advantageous to the rising  
body of Native Christians, non members of the  
Church of England, than to bring them under  
the compulsory operation of the present Act,  
which is intended to provide against claudes-  
tine marriages. This would inflict no hardship  
on any one, and it would tend to preserve pu-  
rity and order in this growing community.

But the most singular feature of this Act is,  
that it gives no authority to the Government  
of India to appoint any Marriage Registrars, or  
to fix the marriage fees in any part of the Com-  
pany's dominions. The clause runs thus: "The  
Governor General of India in Council may ap-  
point any convened or unconvened Notary-  
servant of the Company, being a Christian, or  
any Minister of the Christian religion, ordin-  
ed, or otherwise set apart to the Ministry of  
the Christian religion, according to the usage  
of the persuasion to which he may belong, to

Bombay, the notices shall be affixed in some  
conspicuous place in the Police Courts, and  
in all other places in the Courts of Civil Ju-  
diciary. We desire to requit the Council of  
any design to inflict a gratuitous wound on  
the feelings of those who dissent from the  
Church of England, by directing the notice  
of their marriage to be associated with notices  
of Felonies at the Police Office,—or, as the *Citizen*  
has facetiously interpreted it, of regarding their  
marriages as Criminal acts:—but we do not  
think to reflect, that this is by far the most ef-  
fectual mode of preventing that publicity which  
is considered by the Act a safeguard against  
fraud. No man, honest or dishonest, goes wil-  
lingly to a Police Court, and certainly those  
to whom it is desirable to give information of  
the intended marriage, are not likely to obtain  
it through a notice exhibited on the walls of  
such a place. The same reason will apply, in a  
great measure also, to the Civil Courts, which  
are not places of general resort, except for the  
litigious. In the case of the Church of England  
the bans have been published, from time im-  
memorial, in the Church where the parties and  
their friends are accustomed to assemble, and  
this has hitherto been found a sufficient pro-  
tection against clandestine marriages. Why  
should not the same rule be adopted in the pre-  
sent case, and the notice affixed in the Chapel,  
which the parties may choose for the solemniz-  
ation of their nuptials, and insert accordingly  
in their Notice?

The Rule in Para. XI. is one of great im-  
portance; but it is unfortunately very indistinct.  
It runs thus: "And every person who shall know-  
ingly and wilfully solemnize any marriage under  
the provisions of the said Act of Parliament in  
the absence of a Registrar of the District in  
which such marriage is solemnized, or who shall  
knowingly or wilfully solemnize any marriage  
after the said 1st day of January, 1853, where  
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the Christian religion, according to the usage  
of the persuasion to which he may belong, to

be a Marriage Registrar in any district, to be assigned by the Governor General of India in Council in any place within the territories of any Native Prince or State in alliance with the East India Company." It is strange that the Government should be at liberty to appoint a Minister of the Christian religion a Marriage Registrar in the states of our allies, where such Ministers are not to be found, but not in the territories of the Company where they abound. Strange as it may appear, this is unquestionably the plain, simple, unmistakable meaning of that sentence. It must be recast, and the clause made equally applicable to the British territories and to those of its allies.—Incidentally, the Act gives us a definition of a Dissenting Minister, somewhat different from that memorable one of the Bishop of Calcutta. The Bishop asked his Honor the President in Council "who is a Dissenting Minister? Is a follower of Johanna Southcote, or a prophet Brothers, or a Fifth Monarchy man, or a Rantier, or a Civil Servant of the Company, or a Book-seller, or a Printer, or a School Master?" The President in Council has now given the information which the Bishop required. A Dissenting Minister is a "Minister of the Christian religion."

The fees fixed by the Act, are as follows:

For receiving notice of marriage, ...	Rs. 1
For publishing the notice, ...	2
For issuing the Certificate, ...	5
For every marriage prohibited or protested, ...	10
For registering the marriage, ...	3

The expense of a marriage, under this Act, which is declared by Parliament,—Queen, Lords and Commons,—to be good and valid in Law to all intents and purposes, is Eleven Rupees, that is, in when there is no Protest; a very small sum, which will necessarily drive all the poorer class of Christians in European habits to the Dissenting shops, and deprive the Church of England for the Quality folks. These fees must be paid over by the Registrar to Government, but he is at liberty in case of persons in indigent circumstances to remit "some part, but not more than three-fourths of the said fees respectively." The very poorest class of Native Christians may, therefore, be married for a sum under 3 Rupees.

We have only one further remark to offer. The Act of Parliament states, that "it shall not invalidate or affect, any marriages solemnized by persons in Holy Orders, or by the Ministers of the Scotch Kirk," &c. &c. The local Act states, that "nothing in it shall be construed to extend to the Registration of Marriages solemnized in India by persons in Holy Orders, and nothing herein contained shall affect the right of any officiating Minister to receive the fees now usually paid for the performance or registration of any marriage." Here, it will be perceived that nothing whatever is said regarding the Licences granted by the Surrogates. Before the establishment of the Episcopate in India, Licences were obtained from the Supreme Court on its ecclesiastical side, and they generally cost 72 Rs. On the appointment of Surrogates, the fees were fixed, apparently by the Ecclesiastical functionaries, though not, we believe, by Government, at 32 Rs. Every body, therefore, went to the Surrogate. Is it the intention of this Act, that a Certificate granted by the Marriage Registrar under its provisions, and which will cost no more than 8 Rupees, shall be to all intents and purposes as valid for the performance of a marriage by a Minister of the Church of England, as

it would be in the case of one who is merely a "Minister of the Christian religion." Again—can an ordained clergyman who could not formerly refuse the solemnization of marriage on the production of a license from the Supreme Court, refuse to solemnize marriage on the production of a Registrar's certificate? These are questions which ought to be definitively settled; for if the one be as valid as the other, the Surrogate will be deserted for the Registrar.

REPORT OF THE POST OFFICE COMMISSIONERS.—In our examination of this Report, we now come to the question of *Franking* which is divided into three descriptions of frank as at present legally admitted—Privileged franking; soldiers, sepoys and sailor's letters; and official franking. The two former they propose to abolish at once. The highest Personage in the British empire pays the postage of her own letters, and there is, therefore, no reason whatever for continuing to the superior public officers in India, lay or ecclesiastical, who receive significant allowances, the privilege of franking their letters. If men who receive as we shall presently notice, the small pittance of 7 or 8 Rs. a month, are to be required to pay the postal stamp, it would be an act of the most glaring injustice to convey the letters of men drawing 5, 8, or 10,000 Rs. a month, at the public expense. As regards the letters sent by Soldiers, European and native, and Sailors, and which are now sent free, to a very restricted extent, the Commissioners propose to do away the privilege altogether, and they are, we think, correct in assuming that any sepoy would rather send four letters to his family and friends, during the month, even at an expense of two annas to his own purse, than be restricted to a single letter franked by his commanding officer. The abolition of the system of free letters in the military and naval branches, in conjunction with a low and uniform rate of postage, instead of creating a mutiny in the army, is likely to be hailed as a boon. The question of postage in reference to these two extremes of official society,—soldiers, sepoys and sailors, on the one hand, and Judges, Bishops, and Counsellors on the other,—has a closer connection than the Commissioners have been led to suppose. They seem to think that the sepoy will not object to the penny stamp when he sees his own officer pay it. Rather should we say that the dignified functionaries would be ashamed to use a frank and save an anna, when they saw the men who had only one Rupee a month to their thousand, constrained to pay it.

On the subject of official franking, the Commissioners do not appear to have got the view by the right ear. Every one knew that the correspondences of the State must be paid by the State. Nobody expected that the Secretary to the Military Board, or even its members, should pay from their own salaries the postage of those innumerable letters which are despatched from that office, and which are said to be serviceable in an inverse ratio to their number; nobody expected to tax Mr. Halliday's purse for all the letters sent out from the Home Office, or Mr. Grant's for the twenty thousand annual letters of the Bengal office. But, the objection of the community to the practice of not bringing the postage of Government to account was this, that the resources of the Post Office were curtailed by full three-fifths of the earnings, and thus a fictitious account was cooked up, by which it was made to appear that it did not pay its own expenses, and that it would therefore be unrea-

sonable to introduce any reform which might entail a still farther loss on the department. A future age may be disposed to doubt the fact, but it is nevertheless true, that whenever any proposal was made for postal reform, it was met and negatived by the remark, that the office, as it stood, occasioned a loss to Government,—at a time when it was contributing one quarter of a million sterling to the State, by being obliged to convey the public dispatches to that extent, gratis. The Commissioners state that "while the Inland Postage on chargeable letters passing through the Post Office in one year, amounts to Rs. 16,84,000, the postage chargeable on free and service covers at the same rate, is Rs. 24,71,000." As soon, however, as the Government has admitted the principle of improvement in the department, and resolved, —not to spend, but—to risk the thousand per cent. of the imperial revenue of twenty-seven millions sterling in it, the question of official correspondence assumes a totally different aspect. We required the public postage to be carried to credit simply in order that the resources of the department might appear in their real strength, so as to justify some small fraction of necessary reforms. The Commissioners having, however, proposed these improvements, the question of official franking is easily disposed of. They observe that to make each department procure stamps, and then charge them as an item of expenditure would be only to render the accounts complicated. This would be a waste of stamps and of time; and the Commissioners, therefore, propose that official franking shall be continued as at present; that the number of officers entitled to the privilege shall be revised and curtailed; and that the exact charge of postage which falls to each office shall be the subject of a monthly return. We would propose, in addition, that a report on the operations of the Post Office generally, and on official franking in particular, be drawn up and published annually; with the view of bringing the relative expensiveness of each office and department under public as well as official cognizance. It would produce a vast deal of good. Such a statistical Report on the Post Office every year is due to the spirit of the age; it would also tend to check abuses. The Press unquestionably influences the officers of Government, notwithstanding their professed indifference to it. Indeed, we are not certain that those who talk most about despising the press when it attacks them, are not the men who are most sensitive to its remarks; their loud talking being intended to keep up their courage just as boys whistle loudest in the dark when they are frightened. There is one other mark only which we have to offer on this branch of the subject. Under this official franking is included all the *author's*, or documents, of cases which are appealed from one Court to another, and from the subordinate to the appeal Courts. All these papers are covered free, at the expense of the Post Office. There can be no reason why Government should be at the expense of conveying all the legal documents of a minor when he chooses to appeal, from one Court to the interior to that in Calcutta, any more than that Government should pay his legal advisers. But then,—these documents must for the most part be written on Government Stamp-paper, of a thick texture, and only on one side, in a large German text hand, with the ink like angel's visit, for and for between, and therefore, it would be unjust to make the appellant pay a heavy postage for papers, of which he could not control the weight. This is doubtless just, but it is desirable to know the amount

of this Appeal postage, and desirable also, that it should be debited to the Stamp, not to the Judicial department. Lastly, the Commissioners propose to abolish the privilege of franking granted to a great number of Societies and Institutions, and against this there is nothing to be said. Those who load the mail should pay the expense of carrying their loads, and now that the charge is to be so greatly reduced, there can be no cause for continuing an invidious and unjust privilege.

**MANAGEMENT.** On this subject, the Commissioners propose a complete and radical reorganization of the whole department. They suggest, 1st, that there should be a Director General of the Post Offices of India, an officer of tried ability and experience, who should be in direct communication with, and subordinate to, the Government of India, and control the whole Postal establishments from Peshawar to Cochin; also, that he should receive 3,000 Rs. a month; 2ndly, that there should be a Post Master General for each Presidency, on 2,000 Rs. a month, whose chief business it should be to travel about the country; 3rdly, that the present Deputy Post Masters should have charge of the Presidency offices alone, on their present allowance of 700 Rs. a month; 4thly, that the district Post Masterships, now held chiefly by the Assistant Surgeons, should be abolished, that the Collector or some other Civilian should be Post Master, ex-officio, and that the Moonshes should be elevated to the rank of Deputy Post Masters with the exclusive charge of the office; 5thly, that six or seven Inspectors should be appointed to definite circles, with salaries varying from 100 to 200 Rs. a month, whose duty should consist in moving about and looking after the speed and regularity of the mails. These arrangements have been variously viewed. At first it was said that the plan must have emanated from Civilian, by the same token by which we know that the Pooranas were written by the brahmins; and that the Commissioners had endeavored to counteract the tendency of Lord Dalhousie's wishes to throw the Post Office open to general competition, by fixing the appointments at the four Presidencies in that service, only adding a new berth with larger emoluments; but we do not find the remotest trace in the Report of any idea of keeping these appointments for the exclusive benefit of the service; and the only ground for the suspicion, must, therefore, have been the Civilian magnitude of the salaries. Be that as it may, the appointment of a Post Master General for all India appears to be absolutely indispensable to the efficient and beneficial working of the new and reformed system about to be introduced; and we feel confident that this vast plan of improvement will break down, unless the general control of it be placed under one head. To the separation of the charge of the Presidency Post Offices from that of the Post Master General, also, there can be no objection whatever, and the tour which that officer is expected to make through his jurisdiction, will be found highly beneficial to the interests of the office,—provided it be not confined to the shooting season, and Darjeeling be not made his head quarters during the blistering months of the hot season. The appointment of Inspectors with a limited circle, is also in accordance with reason and public opinion, and is important in many points of view, but the salaries are too low to ensure good and efficient men.

But we greatly question the propriety and wisdom of abolishing the separate Post Master General now enjoyed by the European officers of

Government at each district station, although the Report does give us the almost incredible fact, that the local Post Masters have for the most part given their suffrage in favor of a measure which is to deprive them of their Post Office allowances;—an act of self denial of which there has been no example, since the denying ordinance of the Long Parliament. These offices are generally held by the Assistant Surgeons, whose official pay after deducting for funds is 300 and odd Rs. a month. When the office has a Post Office allowance of 100 Rs. a month attached to it, this is equivalent to an addition of 25 per cent. to his income from the state, and there are stations where this income is the Surgeon's whole dependence. It cannot be denied, that in some stations, the Medical Post Master is altogether inefficient, but this is owing to the general looseness and inefficiency of the whole Postal system which the Commissioners were appointed to reform. The remedy for this state of things is, not to abolish the office altogether, but, to make the same kind of "judicious selection" which according to the Report, has in the North West Provinces produced a "better administration" of the department. The new scheme does not appear likely to answer, and will, we fear, miserably disappoint the expectation of the Commission. It originated with Mr. Taylor, the late Post Master General, who is much more in his element on the bench of Arrah than he was in the Post Office in Calcutta. Under the new system, the Post Offices are to be placed, ex-officio, under the Collectors, who have quite enough to do already, and as they are not to be paid for their trouble, will not care a straw for a "wiggling" from the Post Master General. Their supervision will be simply nominal. The defile Moonshes, who are still to be inadequately paid, are to have the entire management and control of the office, and are to correspond immediately with the Post Master General. Even the Inspecting Post Masters are to have nothing to say to the internal economy of the office; we feel confident, therefore, that the plan will give rise to more abuses than it is designed to correct, and will create universal discontent. Moreover, as the Report proposes the introduction of district dawks, which will for a long time require the closest attention of the head office, and demand the exercise of that authority which a European always exercises better than a native, the transfer of all the postal authority in a district to a native Moonshes is likely to generate confusion, and retard progress. The chief grounds for the alteration appear to be two; first, the necessity which is felt of increasing the shabby allowance of the Moonshes, who are now expected to know three languages, and lots of geography, and to exhibit the strictest honesty in their reaction, for 30, and sometimes only 20 Rs. a month; and secondly, the desirableness of not adding a farthing to the expenses of the department. It is, therefore, proposed to sweep away the European Post Masters, and distribute the savings thus created among the Moonshes and Inspectors. But it is quite possible to carry the principle of economy so far as to make it the price of efficiency, and we are much mistaken if the proposal of the Commissioners is not found to afford an apt illustration of the danger of such a course.

The Report proposes to do away with the system of giving receipts for letters, because it is said to be the occasion of delay, and expense, and the whole business of the department is thereby delayed. Now, the plan which they propose to perpetuate of allowing Millions of letters

to be sent, bearing, and of having every letter with a stamp of inadequate value sent on for the receiver to make up the deficiency, will occasion infinitely more delay, more trouble, and more expense than the plan of giving receipts. One argument against the plan is that "no person has a right to expect that the Post Office should relieve him from the trouble of being particular as to the honesty of his servants." This may be very true, but if the question is to be decided as a mere matter of right, then it may be said on the other hand, with equal plausibility, that the public has a right to expect that when the Post Office receives money, it will not refuse some acknowledgment for it. We must, therefore, dismiss the question of right and stick to expediency. Nothing would be easier than for the Post Office, when a letter was brought in, to weigh it, and if the stamp was found to be correct, to impress the black seal of the office on the receipt, which was simultaneously sent; and if the stamp was found inadequate, to return the letter to the party. One officer on 10 Rs. a month, could thus stamp one thousand receipts a day, and this concession to the security and the convenience of the public, it is surely not too much to ask. Every letter must be weighed some time in the day before it is despatched; and the question therefore, is, whether it would not produce a greater saving of time and of trouble, to weigh it at once and give it back on the spot to the person who brought it and request him to affix a second stamp, than to make an entry of it in the list of letters sent bearing, and to constrain the office which received it to make another memorandum, and to send out a peon to collect double the amount of the deficient postage, which will probably require a quarter of an hour,—and moreover to keep up a set of accounts between the two offices for bearing letters.—All this complication, trouble, and delay, might be avoided, if the Commissioners had the courage to recommend a compulsory prepayment in each and every case, *coute qu'il coute*, and it would be found to cost very little.

We again break off this long article, with many apologies, and a promise to conclude our commentaries next week, with a review of the two remaining questions of Newspaper Postage and District Dawks.

IS THERE AN ESTABLISHED CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN INDIA OR NOT?—A discussion has been going on in the Madras papers for some time relative to the legitimate locality of the monuments erected by public subscription to the memory of the two heroes, Dick and Broadfoot. It was suggested that as they were both members of the Presbyterian community, the Scotch Church at Madras—which is also one of the noblest specimens of architectural elegance in the town—was the most appropriate place for them. The *Spectator*, however, voted in favor of St. George's Church, on the ground that as the Church of England was the Established Church of India, and St. George's the first edifice belonging to that Church at Madras, it should on that account be made the exclusive repository of national monuments. If so positive an assertion regarding the existence of an established Church in India should be allowed to remain uncorrected, it may possibly be taking its place among established "truths," after which it will be no easy matter to transfer it to its proper position among received "falsities." We therefore venture to place ourselves at issue with our contemporary on this point, and lay lance in rest to maintain it as a matter of fact, that the

Government of India has always been most careful to abstain from any thing which could be construed as an acknowledgment that the Church of England, or any other Christian Church, or any Heathen or Mahomedan creed, was the established religion or creed of the state, or of the British Government, in India.

This was determination dates from the earliest period. It was adopted when Calcutta was only a factory, and it continues unimpaired now that it has become the seat of empire. About the time when Charles the Second renewed the privileges of the East India Company, *for ever*, and made over the island of Bombay to them, Parliament was engaged in passing the celebrated Act of Uniformity, to fortify the Church of England as the established Church, by excluding every man from civil office, and from the command of a regiment, who was not a member of her communion. This exclusion continued in force in England for nearly 170 years, but throughout the whole of this period, the East India Company invariably refused to acknowledge this doctrine of exclusiveness, and allowed every man to enter and to rise in their service, Civil as well as Military, without any reference to his creed. At a time when a Roman Catholic officer, who was entitled to his Colony by services and seniority in Great Britain, was obliged to transfer his service to Spain, or some other continental power, because none but a member of the Church of England was deemed fit to command a regiment in England, the Court of Directors shewed how much they were before the age by allowing Catholics, and indeed all religionists, to command regiments, and brigades, and divisions. At a time when O'Connell was not allowed a seat in Parliament, his school fellow, Egan, also a Roman Catholic, was Adjutant General of the Company's army. In this respect the Court have steadily refused to consider the Church of England as the established religion of India.

An established religion, moreover, seems to imply the necessity of its being professed by a certain portion of the community, whether it be large, as in England, or small, as in Ireland. But, in India, there never was any recognized community of Christians at all before the Charter of 1833. Previous to that year, every man in India, not in the public service, was considered in the light of an interloper. He was obliged to provide himself with a license when he came out, which the local authorities were at liberty at any time to cancel. The Court never admitted the existence of any English community in India, except by sufferance, and even this was ever against their wishes and their will, and they always repudiated the idea of considering their duty to provide for the wants whether corporal or spiritual of any such interlopers. They have regarded their responsibilities as limited exclusively to the welfare of their own servants, and the European community, both before and after its acknowledged existence, has been very properly left to take care of its own interests. For its own European establishments, Civil and Military, as well as Soldiers, the Government has thought fit to provide a body of Surgeons and Chaplains, and has placed both these official classes on precisely the same footing. All the Company's Surgeons are Military Surgeons; all the Company's Chaplains are Military Chaplains. A certain number both of Surgeons and of Chaplains, are allotted for the Civil stations, but this arrangement does not remove either from the Military establishment, of which they still continue to form

part and parcel. Such is the principle on which the Government has continued to act, and by which it escapes the numerous inconveniences which would arise from considering any one creed as enjoying the privileges of an established religion. For those of its servants who are members of the Church of England, it furnishes ministers of that communion; for its Roman Catholic servants, Romish Priests, for its Presbyterian servants, ministers of the Church of Scotland; and if any considerable body of its soldiers belonging to any Dissenting persuasion, were to memorialize Government on the subject, and Dissenting ministers could be found to receive state pay, they would be at once granted an allowance from the Military Chest. The number of clergymen of the Church of England, is greater than that of other clergymen, not because their religion is that of the State, but because the number of public servants and soldiers professing that creed, is supposed to preponderate over others; and their pay is higher, because they are covenant servants, who receive their appointments at once from Leadenhall Street.

When it was deemed advisable to appoint a Bishop in 1813 to superintend our ecclesiastical staff, and to perform the functions which belong to a Bishop, ordination, consecration, confirmation, and excommunication, the Bishop was considered and provided for as a superior and dignified officer of the Government, to whom the supervision of one particular department was entrusted. He was not, like the Bishops of the Established Church in England, made an ecclesiastical corporation sole, nor do the legal incidents of such a constitution appertain to him. The rule which had come down from the feudal times in England, of giving the Archbishop of Canterbury precedence over the Lord Chancellor was also reversed in the case of the Bishop of Calcutta, and rank was assigned to him below the Chief Justice, though still above that of the Military Commander-in-Chief, but to compensate his Excellency for this suppression, — so, at least, we have always understood — the episcopal salute was fixed at two guns less than those of the military salute. The Government has thus endeavoured carefully to avoid everything which could countenance the idea, that the Anglican Church was the established religion of India, as it was the established religion of England. At Bombay, this principle has been still farther exemplified by the practice of giving episcopal salutes on one day to the Protestant Bishop, and on another to the Roman Catholic Bishop.

It appears to be on the same principle, that the Court of Directors have so steadily refused to grant a Charter of incorporation to St. Paul's Cathedral in Calcutta, upon which the Bishop has so long set his heart. They have determined not to allow this edifice and its establishment any of those privileges or prerogatives which are identified with the existence of the established Church in England. They very justly consider it exceedingly injudicious to permit the establishment of an ecclesiastical corporation in India, with vested rights, which might give them no end of 'botheration,' and which are not in the smallest degree necessary to the accomplishment of any legitimate object connected with the maintenance of true religion. It was only as a district church, intended to supply the wants of a particular division in Calcutta, which was represented as destitute of the means of grace, that the Court made a donation towards the Cathedral building fund, and allowed it the services of two of their Chaplains. If we are not mistaken,

while it continues unincorporated, it is a Cathedral simply because the episcopal throne has been planted in it. As the Bishop has once removed his Cathedral from St. John's to St. Paul's, so he is, we believe, at liberty to remove it again to the Old Church, or to St. James's, if it should appear to him advisable. But if the Church of England had been the established religion of India, the Government would not have hesitated, and could not consistently have refused, to place the Cathedral on the basis of a corporation, and endow it with those immunities and privileges which are identified with a Bishop's see in the established Church in England.

Neither must we omit to mention, that when Lord Glenelg, then Mr. Charles Grant, the President of the Board of Control, brought in the last Charter Act, which created two new sees at Madras and Bombay, he was distinctly asked, whether the Church of England was to be considered as the established religion of India, and he said without any hesitation, — 'By no means.' We trust that when our contemporary at Madras has reconsidered the question, with the assistance which we have endeavored to afford him, he will agree with us in the opinion that the Anglican Church, though the Church of the majority of English gentlemen in India, — the Governor General and one other of the present members of Council excepted — is not the Established religion of India.

THE "BREITFOOT TRAGEDY." POWER OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.—Every now and then the European public is induced for a moment almost to doubt the softening influence of mental cultivation, by some tale of hardened and continuous brutality inflicted by persons of education upon helpless beings. Hitherto our criminal record has been happily free from such crimes. But there is some reason to fear that the barbarity of the blowmen, which excited so much interest in England a few months ago, has been paralleled in India. Ten years ago, a Mr. Mackey came out from England to this country to take charge of a school near Calcutta, but as the appointment had been filled up, he offered his services to the Church Missionary Society, and was employed by them as Head Master of a school, called the Narayan's School, at Bhelupoor. He had discharged the duties of that Institution since that time with the greatest credit, and appears to have been much respected for his zeal and assiduity. About six years ago, he was left a widower, with two little girls, whom he placed under the care of the lady of the Head Master in the Bonaria College, and whom he invariably treated with the greatest kindness, calling to give them a drive every second day, though the distance from his own residence was not small. In the beginning of this year, however, he was joined by his sister, Miss Mackey, and from the moment the children were placed under her charge, she appears to have contracted a prejudice against them, declaring that their obstinacy, and wickedness must be rooted out by any and every means. Her brother coincided with her, and the children were flogged, deprived of their meals, and otherwise maltreated, until the whole body of the Missionaries interfered, and begged that they might be placed under the care of one of their numbers. This request was refused, and the same system continued, until the 6th October, on which day the children, after having been severely beaten by Miss Mackey, were again, it is said, beaten by her brother on his return. One of the children, only seven years of age, died in consequence of the injuries she had received, and the





























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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "HINDOSTAN," DIRECT FROM CALCUTTA.  
NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mails for Suez, and the intermediate Ports (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Penang, Singapore and Hongkong) intended for transmission by the *Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steam Vessel Hindostan* will be closed at this Office, on Friday, the 7th instant, and that no after notice will be despatched hence on Saturday, the 8th instant, with the ordinary Mail, to ensure the arrival at Redjeh, in time to reach the Steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the *Hindostan* can be received after 3 p. m. of that date.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.  
THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 31st of the ensuing month of December for the departure of the said Steamer *Hindostan*, with a Mail for Suez, notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Saturday, the 23rd instant, and that the first rate of the *Overland Packet* will be closed, and despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 21st inst.

J. R. BURTON SMYTH,  
Deputy Postmaster General in Charge,  
Genl. Post Office, the 1st November, 1851.

THE EXPRESS from Bombay with the Mail of the 24th September, arrived in Calcutta on the morning of Friday, the 31st October, after a passage of thirty-seven days and some hours. The Express, therefore, for the first time this year, has outstripped the steamer by more than two days, the *Oriental* not arriving till Sunday, the 2nd instant. The intelligence is of little interest, and has probably been in the hands of the majority of our readers for many days, but we still propose to give our usual summary. During the numerous reports of changes in the Cabinet, but it is difficult to find upon what authority they rest. The rumour put chiefly, to the retirement of the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, from ill health, which will leave the Ministerial bench in the House of Commons with only one ready debater, Lord Palmerston, besides the harassed and overworked Premier. Lord John Russell himself is said to be in a bad state of health, and the "frequent faintings" which were reported once before, have again made their appearance. It is expected, moreover, that the next session will produce a very severe Parliamentary campaign, as several most important questions are to be brought forward, under circumstances which will give stronger interest than ever to their discussion. The promise of a new Reform Bill, though it has not yet created much attention among the people at large, is sure to excite all the bitterness of party warfare, while the state of affairs at the Cape offers a fair handle for a severe attack upon the Colonial office, and its nominees. The discussion of Indian affairs must also be commenced, though we doubt whether much progress will be made in that question, as it appears almost certain, that the Whig Ministry will dissolve Parliament on the Reform Bill, and appeal to the country with a popular cry. Fortunately for the Free Traders, the leaders of the Protectionist party appear to be at length convinced, that the re-imposition of any tax on corn is impossible, and Mr. Disraeli now endeavours to turn the attention of the "Agricultural Interest" to measures of reform. Meanwhile, the members of the Cabinet were discussing the question of the forthcoming struggle, by a vote in the House, Lord Palmerston, being the only Mi-

nister left in London. Fortunately for them, the Catholic agitation in Ireland has cooled down, and the people are once more turning their attention to affairs of more immediate interest. Ireland, however, is by no means either quiet or contented. Agrarian outrage is still rife, and although the rumours of the failure of the potato crop have died away, and the wheat crop is large beyond all precedent, still the tide of emigration steadily increases in volume. It would appear as if the whole body of the people, young and old, rich and poor, were moving off, with such rapidity that it is impossible to procure sufficient tonnage for the crowds of emigrants. There has been nothing at all resembling this tide of emigration in Europe for ten centuries. Almost every individual who reaches America, appears to prosper, and as a necessary consequence, thousands of dollars are remitted to Ireland, to assist in removing the relations of those who have already found a home on the other side of the Atlantic. It is, however, quite possible that this drain of population may not be productive of any permanent evil to Great Britain, as the place of the Roman Catholic Celts, will soon be filled up with Protestant Saxon farmers, while the operation of the Encumbered Estates Act, which in many instances, differs only in name from confiscation, is rapidly clearing the soil of the pauper landlords who have so long been its bane. The extent of the operations of this Commission may be estimated from the fact, that up to the 3rd July, petitions relating to properties producing an annual rental of 1,094,899l. had been heard, when it was found that the encumbrances on these estates amounted to 21,837,421l. or rather more than twenty years' purchase. One hundred and twenty petitions had been received, heard, and allowed during the month of August alone, and the full effect of the Act is only beginning to be experienced. The only evil consequence of the movement, the scarcity of field labour in England, will be remedied to a great extent by the introduction of the American reaping machine, which performs, at the worst season and in the most unfavourable localities, the work of thirty-two men, and costs 15s. where the old system would have cost seven pounds. Moreover, the absence of the swarms of squalid Irishmen who regularly made their appearance just before the harvest, must ultimately improve the condition of the English labourer, by rendering him more independent of his employer. Thus brother Jonathan who is alluring away and absorbing our labourers, has generously presented us with a Reaping machine, which does all the work which fell to their lot, and renders their absence immaterial.—The destruction of the Crystal Palace has at length been resolved on. The people have hesitated to pronounce any very audible expression of their will on the subject, the aristocracy in the neighbourhood of Hyde Park is indignant at the idea of its continuance, and even the Royal Commissioners appear to desire its removal. It will, therefore, disappear twelvemonths after it was opened, and its history will hereafter furnish one of the most important pages in the great History of England.

The affairs of the continent are by no means so pacific a condition as those of our own coun-

try. The French President and his Ministry are making the most strenuous exertions in their crusade against the press, and however we may discredit the stories of conspiracies discovered, and revolutions unmarked, it is evident that the Government feels itself very insecure. It is strange, however, that in France, where the Government ought by this time to have become experienced in Revolution, it still resorts to the old and effete policy of endeavouring to stifle agitation. In England every one is allowed to talk as much treason as he likes, and it is only when he begins to act it, that he is quietly shipped off to Van Diemen's Land. The position of affairs in Italy remains as before, but the Neapolitan Government has felt itself compelled to answer Mr. Gladstone's letters upon the state of its prisons. The answers in general consist simply of denials, which are not believed. The Emperor of Austria has started on a tour through his Italian provinces, and the extreme rapidity of his movements, when compared with those of our own sovereigns, suggests some curious ideas in reference to the proportionate degree of confidence they are able to repose in the affection of their subjects. The new Austrian loan is not taken up very rapidly, the Austrian merchants only subscribing from fear, and foreigners being unwilling to touch the loan, in the present condition of Germany. The Imperial Government, moreover, has failed to secure the admission of her non-German provinces into the general Union, as the project is warmly opposed both by France and England, though consented to by Russia. This latter Government has, it appears, contrived to create a "coolness" between itself, and the Court of Persia, having demanded the dismissal of the Governor of Masanderan, on account of an outrage on a Russian vessel committed by some Turcomans.

The intelligence from America is of some interest, as the "Cuban difficulty" is at length settled. The American invaders, after beating every force opposed to them, found that the sympathies of the mass of the population were against the insurrection, and they were captured, after severe suffering, and after having fed for days on leaves. General Lopez, their Commander, was taken wandering alone, and garrotted, &c. &c. strangled in the Spanish manner, on the 1st September. One hundred and fifty of his companions have been condemned to ten years' imprisonment in Spain, and the danger to Cuba may be considered as an end, as the American Government is obviously determined to adhere strictly to the law of nations. One unbroken line of Railway now extends from Montreal in Canada to New York, and travellers starting from the former place at day break, reach the latter before sunset. The local Parliament of Canada, moreover, has voted four millions currency towards the expense of a line to connect the British Provinces.

EXPEDITION AGAINST THE MOUNTAINS.—The papers announce with confidence, which is well founded, that an expedition of some magnitude, is about to be sent against the Moomma, under the command of Sir Colin Campbell. These mountain tribes who have been accounted from time immemorial to plunder the English

taste of the plains, and all who come within their reach, have given considerable annoyance to our own peaceful subjects, and inflicted much interruption on the operations of trade, and it has become necessary at length to visit one of them with signal punishment; an example, is therefore, to be made of the most notorious and troublesome among them, the Mo-munda of Mijhones. The extension of our territories across the Indus has necessarily brought us in contact with these wild mountaineers, and it is necessary to restrain their excesses with a vigorous hand. The country they inhabit lies to the north of the Khyber passes and of the Cabool river; but we shall not be obliged to enforce those terrific duties to reach them, and although the country which we now visit to demand "indemnity for the past, and security for the future" lies contiguous to scenes rendered painfully familiar to us in the Afghan campaign, there is little danger of our being drawn into a protracted mountain warfare. We have simply to chastise the insolence, and to repress the inroads of one barbarous tribe. Nor is there the remotest likelihood of any such difficulties as those which poor Sir Harry Smith is now encountering from the Hotentotes and Caffres, and in which his Indian reputation will probably be utterly swamped. The people of England will not long stand a war which is now costing them \$100,000 a month, and their discontent will soon manifest itself in a demand for a change of commanders. Our expedition to Afghanistan will be of such magnitude, compared with the enemy, as to afford the prospect of an early and successful issue, at little comparative cost. The only objection to this expedition is the lateness of the season at which it is undertaken; it ought to have been sent in April last, when it is understood to have been contemplated and sanctioned. The delay has given heart to these levies of black mail, though is not likely to affect the results of the present movement. It is to be hoped that the signal chastisement inflicted on one of these tribes, will strike a salutary terror into the minds of the others.

Strange to say, just at the period when we are about, for the first time since the Cabul tragedy, to send our troops into the Afghan territory, the death of Dost Mohammed is reported from different sources with such confidence as to render it highly credible. He has hitherto kept together and ruled with energy, the discordant elements of Afghan society, and it is difficult to conjecture the influence which this important event may have upon the state of the country and the prospects of this expedition. His death will, it is to be feared, be followed by general anarchy and bloodshed throughout the country, because it will loose those fierce passions which he has fomented so difficult to restrain. If the Mo-munda obtain no assistance from any quarter, the object of our expedition will be easily attained; but if the entrance of our troops on the soil of Afghanistan should rouse the feelings and the fanaticism of the contiguous tribes, we may find that we have thrust our hands into a hornet's nest.

**REPORT OF THE POST OFFICE COMMISSIONER.**—In these concluding remarks on the Report, we propose to consider, first, the proposal of the Commissioners on the subject of *Newspaper postage*; and then the question of *District Duties*. The reader need not be informed that the recommendation of the Commissioners regarding the former has given universal dissatisfaction. The number of paragraphs devoted to the consideration of Letter postage

is 106, while the question of the newspapers is despatched in 13; if we had not, therefore, satisfactory evidence that it had engaged the earnest and anxious attention of the Commissioners, we should have been constrained to attribute its brevity which appears almost contemptuous, to a feeling of utter indifference on the subject. It was the universal wish of the community that the newspapers should also be permitted to share in this great measure of reform, and that the charge for postage should be reduced to one anna, or 11 penny on each copy. Unfortunately, however, it appears that those who are interested in the public journals are the only parties who will derive no benefit from it. The Commissioners advise that the present rates, that is 2 annas, or 3 pence, on papers sent to a distance of 400 miles, and 3 pence, or 4½ pence for papers sent beyond that distance, should be perpetuated. The general chagrin created by this unexpected decision has found vent in censuring the motives of the Commissioners, who are accused of being actuated by a spirit of retributive hostility to the Press, which has on too many occasions manifested an unfounded dislike to the gentleman who drew up the Report. We entirely and cheerfully acquit him or his brother Commissioners of any such littleness. We believe their judgment has been formed on the most conscientious—though they may appear to us to be too narrow—views of their duty. Much of the odium which they have incurred, might have been avoided if they had adopted a more discreet and more qualified form of expression. They made a calculation of the expense now incurred in the conveyance of newspapers, and proceeded at once to pronounce a summary judgment against any reduction whatever. At the same time, they closed the door of hope against any future concession by asserting that any increase in the number of newspapers sent by post, would not, as in the case of letters, augment the net receipts of the office, and thus furnish an argument for a future relaxation of the charge, but that the multiplication of covers would bring with it a corresponding increase of expense. As the public has no means of testing the validity of these statements, they are not received with the confidence which may be due to them. The language of the Commissioners in reference to a point on which they knew they were running counter to public feeling, appears to us to be injudiciously dogmatic. By the queries circulated to the proprietors of newspapers, they unquestionably led us to suppose that they contemplated a reduction of the charge to *one anna*; they knew that this was the general wish and expectation. When they found, therefore, according to their calculations, that this modification of the present charge would entail a considerable reduction of the revenues of the department, we think they would have acted wisely in manifesting such respect for the feelings of the community as simply to have stated in their report the financial result of a one anna, and a two anna stamp, leaving it in the hands of Government to meet the wishes of the public by recommending such a reduction, or not. Instead of which, they observed in the most decided and peremptory manner, "we cannot advise Government to make any present reduction in the rates of newspaper postage." Less this opinion should be overlooked, they repeat it in the next paragraph, "we feel compelled to refrain from any change in the existing system beyond"—what we shall presently notice. They have, we fear, unnecessarily placed themselves in a false position, by connecting the concession of cheap

postage on newspapers—which, they know, we shall most assuredly strive for till we obtain,—with a direct disregard of one of the strongest and most earnest opinions they have expressed in the report. It is to be regretted, moreover, that they should have said, "We are not insensible of the great advantage which the country derives from the free circulation of newspapers, and conceive it to be the duty, no less than the interest of the Government to encourage it by every proper means, consistent with considerations of finance." But what are the means by which Government can encourage newspapers, except by facilitating their circulation? Did the Commissioners contemplate the abolition of the system of secrecy, and the granting of free access to the archives of Government to the conductors of the press? It appears inconsistent to talk of the duty of the state to encourage public journals, and in the same breath to propose the continuation of a measure which inflicts the greatest possible discouragement on them.

The Commissioners state that "they feel compelled to refrain from advising any change in the existing system beyond that of subjecting imported newspapers, to the same rates as those published in India." Imported newspapers now pay at the rate of three annas for six tolas; those published in India six annas for three tolas and a half. The effect of this rule will be to double the cost of English newspapers; for example, to make the annual charge for postage on a copy of the daily Times, to every individual living 400 miles from Bombay, or Madras or Calcutta, 178 Rs. or 17½ l., and to those living within that distance about 117 Rs. or 11½ l., sterling, while the paper itself costs only 6l. 10s. a year. The consequence of such a change must be to prohibit the Times and all other Daily English papers, throughout India, except to the inhabitants of the Presidency towns and the Editors of newspapers. What will the Times say to this? Is it fair and equitable to the European community in India, to throw such obstacles in the way of their access to the great organs of public opinion at home? Is it judicious, not only to raise a phalanx of opposition in the Press in this country, by refusing all concession to the local journals, but also to rouse the opposition of the newspapers at home, by endeavouring to curtail their influence on society in India?

The Commissioners have thought it necessary to consider newspaper postage, as a simple question of finance; they refuse "to propose any sacrifice of revenue." This appears to us to be a very contracted view of a great public question, totally at variance with the principle adopted by more civilized Governments, as well as with the feelings of the age, and even with the professions of the Commissioners regarding the "great advantage which the country derives from the free circulation of newspapers." If there be any such advantage, it is the duty of Government to promote it by the only means in its power,—an appropriation of the resources at its disposal. If it is to be regarded as a mere matter of finance, papers ought to be charged at the same rate as letters, has this in fact the principle on which this Government has acted; as the newspaper from Calcutta to Delhi, would be charged 8 Rs.; a newspaper is charged 3 annas. As Government professes to derive no revenue from the Post Office, there can be no reason for this discrepancy, except that Government has considered that other elements than those of finance enter into the settlement of this newspaper question. On

the same ground on which a newspaper under the present system, goes for one-sixteenth the postage of a letter of corresponding weight, ought a newspaper to be conveyed, for a sum not exceeding one anna, under the system the Commissioners propose of reducing the postage of a letter of 81 talahs to 7 annas. In this liberal age, a paper with the current news of the day is considered one of the essential ingredients of civilized existence, and as the business of Government is to promote the interests of civilization and improvement, with the funds placed at its command, it is bound to provide from those funds, the means of facilitating the circulation of newspapers, just in the same manner as it provides for education, or for any other national interest. The lakh and a half of Rupees, which the Commissioners calculate would be the sacrifice of revenue, could not be better laid out than in encouraging "the free circulation of newspapers," for there can be no question that the reduction of the postage would vastly increase their circulation. The great improvement which is so striking in the European functionaries of Government in India, as compared with those of the last century, and the elevation of views and principles which they now exhibit, is unquestionably to be attributed to the more enlarged diffusion of newspapers, through which the force of an enlightened public opinion is brought to bear on them. Nothing will improve the administrative value of the public servants of Government so effectually as a free intercourse with the mind of England, and this can be secured only through the medium of the Press. Yet the plan of the Commissioners, would cut off nine-tenths of the European community in India from the enjoyment of the great English papers which influence the world, and at the same time prevent the more free and extended circulation of the local journals.

At the very time that our own Commissioners were employed in drawing up their Report, a Select Committee of the House of Commons was engaged in preparing a Report "relative to the transmission of Newspapers and other publications by Post," and they have not hesitated to recommend the substitution of a penny postage on all papers, transmitted by Post, for the penny Stamp now charged on all printed newspapers, though it will involve the certain and irrecoverable loss of Twenty-two lakhs of Rupees a year. In this country, the Commissioners have determined to perpetuate the postage of *four pence half penny* on every cover carried more than 400 miles, to avoid the loss, or the risk, of one Lakh and a half of Rupees, or one-fiftieth of the sum. Are we then to conclude that the difference between the courage and the liberal views of the Post Office Commissioners in India, and the Select Committee of Post Office Enquiry in England, is as one to fifteen?

It has been said that the difference between a postage of one anna, and a total relinquishment of all charge for postage, is little, or nothing. Yet the entire charge for postage on newspapers brought to India has been relinquished, and that by the Parliament of Great Britain, and the Ministers of the Crown. When the home Government was making its contract with the P. and O. Company for the conveyance of the Mails to India and the Eastward, and at a charge of Eighteen lakhs of Rupees a year,—a sum greater than the whole cost of the Indian Post Office establishment—it was especially provided that all newspapers should be conveyed at Post. The daily Press is thus conveyed from Calcutta to Calcutta, without any charge at all,

but if the recommendation in the present Report is sanctioned, it is to cost 17½ lakhs a year for its transmission from Calcutta to Benares. Such is the wide difference in the views of Parliament and the Ministry at home, and the Post Office Commissioners in India, on the subject of newspaper postage.

At the same time that the Commissioners set their faces so decidedly against any relaxation of the heavy postage charge on Indian newspapers, because it involved the sum of One lakh and half Rupees a year, they proposed, to continue the conveyance of all the Government despatches, and all documents connected with private appeal cases, free of all charge, to the extent of Twenty lakhs of Rupees a year. It might appear presumptuous for an editor to affirm that it is as important to the interests of the community to facilitate the conveyance of "these folios of four pages," as the conveyance of cart loads of dull and useless folios of public documents; but, this we will venture to affirm, that if the Government is to derive a benefit of twenty lakhs of Rupees a year from the Post Office revenue which is created by the correspondence of the public, surely it is but fair and reasonable, and just and equitable, that the publicist should obtain the benefit of cheap newspapers to the extent of one-fiftieth of that sum, from the same fund. If the Government were to pay the Post Office department for the conveyance of its letters and despatches, there would be ample resources for conveying newspapers at an anna a cover. But, because Government is determined to make that department transmit all its own papers, however heavy, "free, gratis, for nothing," the public must forego pay an exorbitant price for the conveyance of their newspapers. Supposing the whole expense of transmitting newspapers at one anna to be borne by the Treasury, still the account would only stand thus:—

Gain to Government from the conveyance of its letters, and despatches without any charge,	Rs.
say, .....	20,00,000
Less—the cost of conveying newspapers at one anna the cover,	1,50,000

Clear gain to Government, 18,50,000  
Won't that satisfy even the Financial Secretary?

It is to be hoped that Lord Dalhousie will take a liberal view of this question, and appreciate the importance of facilitating the circulation of newspapers by recommending an anna postage on each cover to our Honourable Masters.

We have every confidence in the report which has obtained circulation, that although the Commissioners did not feel at liberty to propose this improvement themselves, they will be highly gratified to find that his Lordship is disposed to meet the wishes of the public. Some have even gone so far as to assert, that the Commissioners designedly avoided the recommendation of any concession to the press, because they were anxious that the grace of this measure should be attached to the head of the Government. Should our expectations in this respect, however, be delayed, and the newspaper community be the only party not embraced in the present measure of reform, we must not give up the question in despair, but redouble our efforts for the attainment of this object, in the perfect certainty of eventual success.

DISTRICT DAWKS. One of the most important and beneficial arrangements proposed by the Commissioners, is that which refers to the reform and extension of the system of District Dawks, because without it all their other re-

forms would be incomplete. The Post Office at present conveys the Mails only to certain offices on the main lines of communication, and there are no means of subsequently distributing the letters through the interior of the district. When a pen is sent with a letter to some town, eight or ten miles off the line, he generally demands one or two annas, extra, before he will part with it. The great body of the people are thus deprived of all benefit from the postal establishments, and the mere cheapening of the postage of letters without creating the means of transmitting them to the interior, will not extend the advantage of this reform to them. Without such a system of internal postage, the expectation of an increase of the revenues of the department from an increase of correspondence will be seriously impeded. For the last fifty-nine years, the Zemindars have been compelled by law to provide the means of conveying the despatches of the Police from each Thannah to the Magistrate's station, and vice versa. The Magistrate in the North West Provinces—and more especially Mr. Montgomery in the district of Cawnpore—have labored to improve these Zemindari Posts, by placing them under official control, and allowing the people generally to avail themselves of them on the payment of half an anna for each cover. Their efforts have been so successful, and the advantage has been so eagerly embraced by the Natives, that the number of letters thus sent by them has increased in five years from 9,000 to 16,000. This success has encouraged the Post Office Commissioners to propose the universal extension of the system, and they have drafted an Act for the purpose, which, when passed, will diffuse the blessing of cheap postage throughout the country, and bring every village and town of note within the circle of postal communications. It would be difficult to conceive of any measure which is likely to be more extensively beneficial to the whole community.

It is said, however, that an objection has been raised to the passing of any such Act on the ground that it would be an infringement of the Perpetual Settlement, because the draft Act proposes, "that the Collector of any district, on receiving from the Magistrate a Schedule, showing the amount annually required for maintaining the district dawk, shall assess the same once for all on the lands, paying revenue to Government ratably according to their jumma." But this objection appears to rise to rest on grounds that are altogether untenable. The Perpetual settlement was, it is true, combined with an engagement, that the jumma, or public revenue, assessed on the lands, should continue fixed for ever, and that no alteration should be made in the assessment; but the proposed draft does not say, is no part of the public assessment. It is simply a modification and improvement of the mode of providing for an expense which the Landholders were bound to defray at the time when they received the assurance of a fixed assessment. On the same day on which the permanent settlement was secured by them by law, that is, on the 1st of May, 1793, another Act was passed to confirm an arrangement made with them nearly five months before, for the maintenance of an efficient Police. By that Act, the proprietor, or head person of a village was made responsible for conveying the police despatches; and all proprietors and farmers of land were required to pay the strictest obedience to these orders for conveying the letters of the Darogahs. The duty of transmitting the Police packets was imposed on them, at the same time with the perpetual settlement, of which it

was part and parcel, and it is equally as obligatory on them to provide the means of conveying these documents through their estates, as it is on Government to refrain from encroaching their revenue. As this duty was executed in an inefficient manner, the Zemindars were required in 1817 "to appoint the requisite number of peons or rykes for the performance of it," and they were made liable to a fine of 100 Rs. for neglect of these orders. The Act drawn up by the Commissioners merely provides that the sum which they have all along paid the peons, shall be paid to the Collector, in order that the peons may be brought under the direct control of the Magistrate, and the work may be efficiently performed. It imposes no new liability on the Zemindars, and no new tax on their lands, and it is therefore difficult to suppose that it can be regarded as an infringement of the permanent settlement, or a violation of public faith. Nor must it be forgotten that this alteration in the mode of paying the runners is generally agreeable, and in no small degree, to the Zemindars themselves. The inevitable consequence of the present scheme of postal reform, will be to render the Zemindary dark an object of paramount importance; speed and regularity will not only be expected, but enforced; the old dodge of appointing an old woman to carry the wallet, will no longer pass; the Zemindar must appoint efficient men, and work the establishment with vigor and punctuality, or come under a forfeit of 100 Rs. for every instance of neglect; his labors and his responsibilities will thus be abundantly increased, and he will most gladly compound for them both by a payment which will scarcely exceed one-sixteenth per cent. of his jumma.

In this review of the Report we have dwelt almost exclusively on those portions of it which appeared to be susceptible of advantageous modifications, and it may possibly be inferred from this circumstance that we could see nothing but defects in it. We are anxious to prevent so unpleasant and unfounded a suspicion. We consider the Report one of the greatest monuments of industry, zeal, and ability to be found among the records of Government. The labor which has been employed in collecting, and arranging the multifarious details connected with this subject, and in drawing up a condensed report, in which it is presented to view in all its bearings, has seldom if ever been exceeded by any former commission. The views adopted by the Commissioners are, generally, enlightened and liberal. The reform which they recommend and for which they have paved the way, is one of the largest and most important ever proposed to the Government of India, and the benefit which it will confer on a hundred millions of people, in the gift of cheap postage, and unexampled facilities for epistolary intercourse, is such as it would be difficult to over-estimate. The great defect of the Report appears to us to consist in the absence of that bold and decisive character which the magnitude of the subject seemed to require. Hence the Commissioners have hesitated to recommend the abolition of bearing letters, or a reduction of newspaper postage, or the continuance of European superintendence in the Post Offices in the interior. Great allowance must be made for the peculiarities of their situation. As the servants of Government, they were not in a position to exhibit the same spirit of independence in dealing with this public question as a Committee of the House of Commons, the representatives of the people. They were haunted by the spectre of a large deficit which the Treasury annually conjures up,

while the Parliamentary Committee, sitting at the same time, and for the same object, had before them the agreeable prospect of a surplus revenue in the ensuing year—which, however, the hero of Allivai has already extinguished. Our Commissioners, moreover, were evidently afraid of asking too much, lest the Indian Authorities in London might be disposed to refuse any thing and every thing. Lord Dalhousie, from the eminence of his position, will be enabled to take up this magnificent scheme of reform where they have left it unfinished, and to propose the adoption of those bolder measures which appear indispensable to the completion of it.

**EDITORIAL CONSIDERACY AND THE RAILWAY.**—Our good friend, the *Harkara*, who takes so generous an interest in our reputation, has given us some amusing diversions upon our editorial inconsistency in having formerly advocated the direct line from Calcutta to Mirzapore, and now, the circuitous route by way of Rajmahal and the valley of the Ganges. We consider it the duty of every one who professes to write for the public, to form the best judgment in his power according to the best information within his reach at the time, and to correct that judgment, whenever he is able to obtain better information; and we should regard a journalistic unworthiness of public confidence, if he refrained from stating any such change of opinion, together with the reasons for it, from the mere dread of being stigmatized with inconsistency. A foolish notion has been sometimes enunciated that statesmen and editors are the only individuals who are not at liberty to vary their opinions in conformity with the progress of knowledge, and the measures of experience. If our opinions are found to be in accordance with the facts on which they are based, it appears perfectly irrelevant to enquire whether they are consistent with any opinions which may have been previously given under different circumstances. We advocated the direct line from Calcutta to Mirzapore, just as long as it appeared to be the best. It had the recommendation of being the shortest, and it was, moreover, the only line which had been even roughly surveyed, and it had the sanction of the Consulting Engineer of Government, and the local head of the Railway Company. The line to Rajmahal, was always associated more or less with the plan of making that town the terminus in Bengal, and then starting the Rail ahead at Allahabad, leaving the intermediate space to the steamers, which are often twenty days in accomplishing the trip between these two places. We are sorry to perceive from the *Harkara* that this preposterous scheme has not yet been abandoned. But, even the continuation of the line of Railway to Rajmahal, and along the banks of the Ganges to Allahabad, was represented as presenting engineering difficulties greater than those of the direct line. The only person who published any thing on the subject told the public, that there were between fifty and sixty streams, big and little, to be bridged, which was of itself sufficient to render the adoption of this line a matter of very doubtful propriety. At the beginning of the present year, however, Major Kennedy, the Consulting Engineer of Government, and Mr. Turnbull, the Chief Engineer of the Railway Company, surveyed both routes, and found on examination that the local difficulties of the direct line were greater, and those of the circuitous line fewer than had been supposed; the Danubius pass, in the former, presented a declivity of more than a thousand feet nearly

perpendicular; the Soane was between two and three miles wide on the great trunk road, and only three quarters of a mile wide at its junction with the Ganges. The direct line would, moreover, have passed through more than 200 miles of desert, while the circuitous road would run in the vicinity of many populous cities which might furnish traffic. They therefore gave the preference to this line though it involved 100 miles more of rail. Subsequently, it has been found that by following the old Mahomedan road from Rajmahal to Burdwan, the formidable and expensive undulations of the iron district of Beerboom may be avoided, and a line nearly level obtained, by skirting the eastern base of the hills, and at the same time avoiding too close a proximity to the range of inundation. Under these circumstances, we have not hesitated, at once, to give this line our humble advocacy.

The *Harkara* is perfectly welcome to any caviat or triumph he may claim; but he must be more careful in examining his facts. We never advocated, as he hints, "the great direct line to terminate in the heart of the Beerboom jungles;" our terminus was Mirzapore. We have always advocated the cheapest mode of construction, consistent with durability and safety; and shall be most happy to find that the rail is to cost £20000 a mile instead of £15,000. The cost of the present line will, we fear, be found to lie between these two figures. "The cheapest" mode of construction, in a country where everything decays twice as rapidly as elsewhere, would soon have been found the dearest. The great object of the Rail must be to combine economy with permanence,—permanence being also essential to economy—and if we are able to construct our line to Delhi for one-half the average cost of English Railways, and can combine on the same amount of traffic, we shall always have even per cent. as a clear dividend on the capital. The simple difference between the *Harkara* and ourselves has been that we recommended the direct line, and he the circuitous one, to Rajmahal, and up the Ganges, but always with a lurking intention on his part of stopping, if possible, at Rajmahal, and transferring all the goods and passengers to steamers, to be conveyed for twelve or fifteen or twenty days up the most uncertain and almost the shallowest river of its size to be met with.

The *Harkara* alludes to our having said, that railways "are chiefly for the more distant districts, and not for those that already enjoy the greatest facilities of river communication," and he asks how on this principle we recommended the continuation of the rail from Rajmahal along the banks of the river to Mirzapore. Very satisfactorily, as we think. The rail will necessarily obtain at once all the upward freight from Calcutta to the towns lying between Rajmahal and Mirzapore. No merchant will consent to a voyage of three months for his goods, when they can be conveyed as cheap in three days; and he will generally prefer sending his produce down by the rail, likewise, rather than by the Soondarbans, more especially when he cannot calculate on a return cargo to lessen the expense of the trip. During the three or four months of the rains, when boats can come down in a fortnight from Mirzapore through the rivers of Bengal, the river voyage may possibly obtain the preference for the conveyance of goods to the Presidency; but during the other eight months of the year, the Rail will afford greater facilities than the river; and for the transmission of goods upwards, it will always be preferred, throughout the year.

**DISENTENERS' MARRIAGE ACT.**—It has been pointed out to us, that in our remarks on this measure last week, we omitted to notice the great error which has been committed in the Act of Parliament regarding the age of the parties intending matrimony. The omission was inadvertent on our part, and we hasten to supply it. The Act states that the father, if living, of any party under twenty-one years of age, or if the father be dead, the guardian, and if there be none, the mother, shall have authority to give consent to the marriage; and such consent is to be required. Every person whose consent is necessary may enter a protest against the marriage, and if any such person, (other than the father) shall, without just cause, withhold consent to the marriage, the parties may apply to the judicial authorities, in town or country, who may at once negate the protest, and order the marriage to be solemnized. According to the Act, therefore, the father has absolute power to prohibit the marriage of his son or his daughter, until they attain the age of twenty-one, whether with or without cause, and there is no authority in the country competent to set aside his prohibition. Now, among the Natives of this country minority terminates by law at the age of Eighteen years, and the same rule will of course be applicable to Native Christians; yet this Act, which is binding upon them, and is indeed the only enactment which has ever been passed in reference to their marriages, disqualifies every girl for marriage without the father's consent till the age of twenty-one, whereas the usual age for entering upon this connection is, at the latest, fourteen. In reference, moreover, to youths, the Courts of law invariably pronounce them masters of their own actions and free from all parental restraint, at the age of Eighteen; in some cases they have even been considered free agents at the age of sixteen, and have been allowed to join a Christian communion, notwithstanding the opposition of the father. But according to this Act, a Hindu parent whose son may have embraced Christianity, will be at liberty absolutely to prevent his contracting a legal and valid marriage for several years after the law declares that he has ceased to have any control over him.

This glaring anomaly, and this palpable injustice in an Act drawn up in the most liberal and equitable spirit, is to be attributed entirely to the ignorance of local circumstances on the part of the London Commissioners. It was to remedy any such errors that the draft was transmitted to the Legislative Council of India; but that body allowed this preposterous clause to stand as it was, without any alteration, and, after detaching the Report for so long a period, as to call forth the remarks of the home Commissioners, sent it back without any publication of it in this country. Every other enactment affecting local interests, which comes before the Legislative Council in Calcutta is invariably promulgated in the *Gazette* for two or three months. Why they thought fit to make an exception in this case it is difficult to divine, except, indeed, we give them credit for being ashamed to announce that they intended to send all Dissenters who did not acknowledge the Queen as the Supreme Head of the Church to be married in the Court House, unless the Judge permitted the marriage to take place in his own house. This mysterious proceeding prevented all those who were interested in the questions to which the Act refers, and were competent to shed intelligence in verifying it, from offering any objection on it. Of course, it was not

the intention of the Legislature in England to vest a Hindoo parent with the powers of vindictively prohibiting the marriage of his son who had embraced Christianity, for four or five years after his parental authority had ceased. But this anomaly cannot be remedied by our Legislative Council, which is expressly forbidden by Section 20, to pass "any rule inconsistent with the provisions of the Act." It will be necessary therefore to go up to Parliament, and state that the draft of the Act as revised by the Local Legislature, was never communicated to the public, and to ask for an Act to amend an Act of the 14th and 15th Victoria, Chapter 40. This memorial should be sent without delay to the Home Secretary, in Calcutta, that it may reach England, with the remarks of the Legislative Council, at the opening of Parliament.

**CHINA.**—The insurrection in the Southern provinces of China which we have so often recorded, still progresses favourably for the insurgents and their leader, who is now sole master of the province of Kwangsi, and whose new coinage has already obtained circulation even at Hong Kong. The Editor of the *Friend of China*, had himself seen copper coins from the royal mint of Tien-tsch in the hands of his office clerks. All the literary examinations of candidates for offices in the province, which form so singular a feature in Chinese polity, are held under his directions, and are presided over by such of the Mandarins, as have already sworn allegiance to the usurper. The determination of the authorities to prevent any accurate intelligence from reaching Canton, or any of the outposts, renders all the rumours from the seat of war uncertain and contradictory, but a report obtained credit in Canton that a great battle had been fought on the 24th September, in which the Imperialist troops had been totally defeated. The defection of the Chinese soldiers in Su's force by thousands at a time is also recorded, but no authentic intelligence is likely to be received until Hien-tsch advances nearer to Canton. One hundred and eighty-three persons had been decapitated in that city during the month of August, all of whom were either implicated in the revolt, or suspected of being so. The Emperor himself would appear to be as unpopular in Pekin as in the southern provinces, an attempt having been made to assassinate him in July, in which no less than eighteen of the superior Mandarins were implicated. In accordance with the summary practice of the Tartar Emperors, they were all instantly decapitated, but the occurrence is a sufficient evidence of the difficulties by which the young Emperor is surrounded.

The disturbance at Shanghai, which appears to have owed its origin to an attempt on the part of the Foreign residents to form a new Park and Race course, has died away, but the Consul, Mr. Alcock, considered it necessary to detain armed vessels in the harbour, in case any open demonstration of hostility on the part of the Chinese should be attempted. The Chinese Authorities are determined to prevent the occupation of land for the purpose, though previously purchased by the foreign community, and the Consul is reported to have yielded, an act of forbearance which has been of course construed by the Chinese into cowardice, and the Tiao-tao has been confirmed in his office for "his smothered in inspiring fear in Her Majesty's Consul."

**THE BENGALOPUR TRAGEDY.—THE MAGISTRATE'S CONDUCT.**—We regret to find how completely we were in error last week in our

remarks on the proceedings of the Magistrate of Benares in this lamentable affair, and how entirely we have mistaken the nature and object of his communications to the Government of the North West Provinces. We were led by the representations of some of the papers, we suppose, that he had made a reference to Mr. Thomason, with the view of ascertaining whether the parties were to be tried at Benares, in a Company's Court, or transferred to the Supreme Court of Calcutta. This is evidently an erroneous view of the case. The commitment of Europeans for trial to the Queen's Court, in all cases of heinous offences, is a course from which no Magistrate would for a moment think of deviating. Indeed, no Sessions Judge would permit any charge of this nature to be brought against him in his Court. But, on turning to Regulation 15, of 1806, which escaped our recollection, we find it ordained, that whenever a Magistrate holds any British European subject to bail, or deems it necessary to commit him to the jail of Calcutta, to take his trial before the Supreme Court for any offence of a criminal nature, the Magistrate shall transmit the original depositions to the clerk of the crown. The Magistrate is desired, at the same time, to transmit copies of these depositions to the Secretary to Government, for the information of the Governor General, but only to enable him to determine whether the prosecution should be undertaken by the law officers of Government, and at the public expense or otherwise. It is in compliance with this latter injunction, we conclude, that the Magistrate of Benares has forwarded copies of the papers to the Government to which he is subordinate, but this communication will not, of course, interfere with the progress of the case in the Supreme Court.

**THE CALCUTTA REVIEW.**—The present number of the Review contains the following articles:—

1. The Anglo-Indian Courts of Justice.
2. Mortality of European Soldiers in India.
3. The East India Company and its Charter.
4. Indo-Bactrian Numismatics and Greek Connections with the East.
5. Indian Epidemics and Mofussil Sanitary Reform.
6. Results of Missionary Labour in India.
7. Richardson's Literary Recollections.
8. Manual of Surveying, and the Revenue Survey.

A goodly feast, but we must at present confine our attention to two of the most important contributions. The "MORTALITY OF EUROPEAN SOLDIERS IN INDIA," and the "RESULTS OF MISSIONARY LABOUR." The extraordinary mortality among European troops serving in India, as compared with the rate among the same class employed in civil occupations, and the still more extraordinary disparities between different stations, has at length attracted the attention of the Court of Directors, and as a preliminary step to reform, they are making great efforts to obtain accurate statistical returns of every description bearing upon the health of the European soldier.

The annual mortality of European troops in India, deduced from returns to which no exception can be made, is in Bengal 7.85 per cent., Bombay 5.078. Madras 3.848, while in the Native Army the proportions are, Bengal 1.79; Bombay 1.291; Madras 2.066. The ordinary rate among Europeans in civil employments is as much less, of life as in three such battles as Waterloo; and secondly, that it is not a natural effect of the climate alone, inasmuch as Europeans in more fatiguing employments do not perish with the same rapidity. The question is, therefore, narrowed into an enquiry, whether the proximate cause of the mortality is the unhealthiness of the stations























# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

### EXPORT OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.

THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 31st of the ensuing month of December as the day of the departure of the next Steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Suez—Notice is hereby given, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Saturday, the 23rd inst. at 12 o'clock, and the first of the Overland Packet will be despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 22nd inst.

J. R. BULLION BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge,  
Genl. Post Office, the 1st November, 1851.

NOTICE.—The subjoined copy of a Despatch No. 3 of 1851, from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated the 24th September, forwarded to this Office by the Government of Bengal, is published for general information.

J. R. BULLION BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge,  
Calcutta, General Post Office, the 24th November, 1851.  
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Our Governor of the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal.

1st. We have been informed by direction of Her Majesty's Post Master General, under date the 18th instant, that "His Lordship has obtained the authority of the Treasury to despatch in future from the General Post Office in London, the mail for India via Madras on the evening of the 10th of the month, instead of the 9th, as hitherto, except on the occasion of the 8th falling on Sunday, when the mail will be despatched on the evening of the following day, and that this arrangement will come into operation with the mail of the 8th proximo."

2d. You will be careful, that the several Post Masters under your Presidency are duly advised of this alteration, which may have the present mail notified to our Agents at Aides and in Reply.

We are, &c.  
(Sd.) JOHN REYNOLDS, 12 OTHER DIRECTORS,  
London, the 24th September, 1851.

(Sd.) W. SECTER KARR,  
Under Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal,  
(Trans copy.)

J. R. BULLION BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the Friend of India begs to acknowledge the following Donation:  
From E. F. Z. O'N's Rs. 50, to Mr. Brett; and Co. Rs. 50, for the Borneo Testimonial.

## THE CONDUCT OF THE BURMESE GOVERNOR AT RANGOON towards British subjects has engaged much public attention during the last month, and the representation of the outrage recently perpetrated is reported to have roused the Government of India from its lethargy, for the first time since the close of the Burmese War.

Two instances of the most flagrant injustice and extortion, have been brought under discussion, that of Capt. Shepherd, and of Capt. Lewis. The particulars are already before the public, and we need only allude to them cursorily. In reference to the treatment experienced by Capt. Lewis, we have received a statement from an independent and authentic source, and are therefore enabled to testify to the strict accuracy of the report which he has himself laid before the public and the Government. Capt. Lewis is an active, intelligent, well educated, and resolute man, and throughout the whole of those trying scenes maintained the dignity of the English character, and drew forth the admiration of the Burmese who quail before the contemptible despot at Rangoon. The sole object of the tyrant Governor in all his barbarous treatment of Capt. Lewis was to extort money; and the charges upon which he was arraigned were trumped up for that especial purpose. When Capt. Lewis appealed to the treaty of Yandaboo, the Governor exclaimed that he had nothing to do with that treaty; that it was for a Resident to appeal to it, not for one who was simply a

merchant or a commander of a ship. This, said he, (using a most opprobrious Burmese epithet) is a madman; he disputes my authority, and talks about his being an Englishman. He thinks he has a right to bring forward, witnesses of his own to destroy the testimony of my men. Who ever heard of such a madman? In twenty years there has not been such a madman in Rangoon. I shall detain his ship and put him in irons, and send the case up to Ava. "His object," as we are told, "was to extort money. The Captain must pay black mail, or he must not leave the port. He has been compelled to go to the Governor, two miles distant, daily and often again in the evening for twenty days, and he has been exposed to a burning sun and deluges of rain, by which his health has suffered severely. He has experienced an amount of insolence from the officials, and even from the menials which is incredible, and he has maintained throughout the whole an air of calm self possession and manly dignity which has secured for him the respect, and even the dread of the whole Court."

The injustice, the insolence, and the extortion to which a British subject has been thus wantonly subjected, ought not to be regarded by his own Government with indifference. It is a direct and palpable violation of the 9th Article of the Treaty of Yandaboo, which runs thus, "The king of Ava will abolish all extortions upon British ships or vessels in Burman ports, that are not required from Burman ships or vessels in British ports; nor shall ships or vessels, the property of British subjects, whether European or Indian, entering the Rangoon river or other Burman ports, be required to land their guns, or unship their rudders, or do any other act not required of Burmese ships or vessels in British ports." If our merchants and commanders have been thus encouraged by their own Government to trade to this port by the promise of that protection which this treaty gives, the Government is bound to interfere, when they are subjected to illegal and infamous exactions. The British Government has ever been most scrupulous in its treatment of Burmese vessels and subjects in its own ports, and it is required by every consideration of national dignity and justice to exact the same treatment for its own subjects in Burmese ports. We do not say that it is necessary to interfere in every case of petty annoyance which a barbarous government may choose to amuse itself with, but in a case of such glaring oppression, and so clearly authenticated, as the present, it is bound to make a demonstration of its power, and give its own subjects the benefit of it. We are certain that neither the French nor the American Governments would have allowed any Frenchman or American to be thus treated with impunity.

Had Captain Lewis been a native of either of those countries, an expedition would have been immediately despatched to exact satisfaction; and assuredly it is not for the British Government to manifest any squeamishness on such an occasion. There can be no doubt, that if any such outrage had been committed on any British commander in any Chinese Port, we should have exacted instant reparation; and is it to be said, that the contemptible government of Burmah shall do that with impunity which the

ruler of 300 millions dare not do? Of what benefit is our supremacy in Asia, and our absolute command of the ocean, if it is not to be exerted for the protection of our own subjects, while engaged in the peaceful occupations of commerce? The Indian Government, we know, dread the idea of a second Burmese war; so does every one else, though if the worst comes to the worst, a second war will be finished in one-tenth the time, which the first occupied, and at a tenth of the cost, and the result will be ten times more advantageous. But there is no reason to dread a war from our enforcing the provisions of the treaty upon a Government which is as dastardly as it is tyrannical. Since the peace of 1826, the power of Burmah has been rapidly diminishing, while our capacity for carrying on a war with a maritime power energetically, and bringing it to a rapid and successful issue, has been constantly increasing. We know much more than we did before of the weakness and the pusillanimity of the Burmese Cabinet, and they know more than they did of our resources. If we demand an explanation by a couple of armed vessels or steamers, it will be given with all humility; and the time has certainly arrived, when it becomes a national duty to bring this contemptible and overbearing Government to its senses, and exact, on the threat of retribution, the same treatment for our own subjects which we grant to theirs. Not only have the Burmese treated the two Commanders with the most cruel indignities, but their forbearance has emboldened them to disturb the security of our own contiguous provinces. The daring robbery committed in the heart of Moulmein in the house of Aga Bukker some months back, must be fresh in the recollection of our readers. The robbers came from the opposite Burmese territory, in boats, fully armed, and after gutting the house, retreated to their own shores. These men have since been seen together with their booty a little below Rangoon, and the exploit was talked of by all classes for many days. The chief robber has selected the most valuable articles as a present for the Queen, and the whole body has proceeded up the river, in a war boat, fully equipped, and with such ostentation as to attract general attention; and no one believes that the robbery was perpetrated without the knowledge of the Burmese authorities.

We are happy to hear that the American Government contemplates a Mission to the Court at Ava with the view of establishing commercial relations with Burmah, and opening its resources to American enterprise. Brother Jonathan brooks no insolence, and has no false delicacy in his dealings with barbarians. If the plan should be carried out, and a Mission be sent to Ava, it cannot fail to produce the most beneficial results. If the Envoy succeeds in his object, an American Consulate will be established at Rangoon, and his authority will be backed by a vessel of war, which will afford an indirect, but effectual protection to all foreigners, where they require nothing beyond the establishment of some civilized influence. If the embassy should be treated with Burmese insolence, the Americans will not fail to demand satisfaction, and they will read its Government a lesson which will not be easily

fortogen. In either case, the isolation of this productive kingdom will be broken up, and its resources brought within the circle and under the laws of European commerce.

Since these remarks were written, we have received a full confirmation of the report that the Governor General has determined to lose no time in demanding suitable reparation from the Burmese Government for the treatment of Capt. Lewis, and the Commodore is to proceed immediately in H. M. Ship *Far*, accompanied by the *Tenasserim* Steamer. This is the right embassy for these savages, and we most sincerely hope it will result in the establishment of a British Consular Agent at Rangoon, with the permanent presence of a vessel of war.

**THE POWERS OF THE SUBORDINATE PRESIDENCIES, AND THEIR COMPARATIVE ENERGY OR SUPREMACY.**—The want of activity in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay has been the subject of frequent and earnest remonstrance in the journals of those cities. Scarcely a month passes without some strong animadversion. This supineness is sometimes attributed to a want of spirit and energy in the public authorities, but more frequently to the paralyzing effect of that control which is said to be exercised by the Supreme Government. We see few articles on the subject in which this is not treated as an incontrovertible fact, and placed in the most prominent point of view, and in which the Supreme Government is not charged with acting from a narrow and invidious spirit in all questions relative to the interests of those Presidencies. The subject is more distinctly alluded to in a recent number of the *Athenæum*, in which it is stated, that "it is a fact beyond all question, that Messrs. Elliot and Thomas, who occupy the highest posts in the Civil Service cannot decree a single resolution, and are equally true that the Deputy Governor of Bengal or his Secretary, has a veto on the propositions of Sir Henry Pottinger." There must be some inadvertent error of the pen in this remark. The Government of Bengal has no more to do with the Government of Madras than it has with the Government of Ceylon. It is itself subordinate in every respect to the Government of India, and stands precisely on the same step of the ladder as the sister Presidencies, on both sides of the Peninsula. It is the Supreme Government, or the Government of India to which the reference is evidently made, and which has been vested with a controlling authority. But this arrangement was imposed by the Imperial Parliament in the last Charter, which ordained in the first place that the Governor General and Council shall be vested with full power and authority to superintend and control the Presidencies of Bengal, Madras, Bombay, and Agra, in all points relative to their civil and military administration; and in the next, that those Presidencies shall be restrained from making laws, or granting money; that is, that they shall not have "the power of creating any new office, or granting any salary, gratuity, or allowance without the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council."

But this control over their administration is seldom or never exercised. Generally speaking, the whole of the internal management of the administration at those Presidencies, within the sum included in the annual establishments, is left entirely in the hands of the local authorities, without any interference on the part of the Supreme Government. Those Governments may, indeed, be considered free agents to a much larger extent than even

the Court of Directors themselves, who are obliged to submit every proceeding to the Board of Control, and cannot act at all without its sanction. No such rule exists regarding the subordinate Presidencies, who are not obliged to consult the Government of India, except in the cases clearly defined in the constitution of the Indian administration as settled by the Charter Act of 1833. That Act takes away from them the power of doing two things; "making laws, and granting money." We can remember that Mr. Macaulay, who assisted in the preparation of that Act, used to say, that it was originally intended to combine with this restriction the appointment of one member from Madras, and one from Bombay to the Supreme Council, and we regret that so salutary a rule was not carried out. But the loss of the power of legislation does not appear to give so much umbrage as the loss of the purse strings, which is a source of such constant irritation as sometimes to overcome even the official calmness which is considered so indispensable in the intercourse of public men. The Act ordains, as we have stated above, that the establishments which have already received the sanction of the Supreme Government shall not be augmented, nor shall any allowance be increased without a reference to it. This rule was very loosely observed, till Lord Ellenborough taking offence one day at some freedom of unauthorized expenditure exhibited at one of the minor Presidencies, made the application of it more stringent than before. It is since that period, that the amusing interlude is said to have occurred, of the expenditure of half a realm of foolscap on encreasing a Melutur's, or common sweeper's salary, from eight to nine shillings a month. With regard to public works, all the subordinate Presidencies are at liberty to expend to the extent of 10,000 Rs. upon any undertaking, without a reference to Calcutta.

This restriction is doubtless very offensive, but it has been imposed by Parliament, as one of the links of that series of subordinations of which the Government of India is composed. The minor Presidencies are thus subjected to the control of the Government of India, and the Government of India to the Court of Directors, and the Court of Directors to the Board of Control; so that the centre of authority, the magnetic pole of this vast administration is to be found at the desk of the President, or, of one of his assistants. There can be no doubt that the result of the references which are made to the Government of India, involving an increase of expenditure, does sometimes kindle indignation, which finds a vent in contemptuously signifying the Supreme Government as the Government of Bengal, or still worse, the Government of Calcutta. The Indian Chancellor of the Exchequer is no doubt occasionally grumpy on the arrival of large pecuniary requisitions from Madras and Bombay, and scuds for the balance sheet of the empire, and determines to consider all such applications as altogether unsuitable to the state of the finances. He looks at every thing in reference only to the state of his till. Talleyrand used to say that he was entirely a political being. Our Chancellor is altogether a financial being, and the sole object of his official life is to improve the finances, in every possible way, sometimes by the retrenchment of existing expenditure, at others by negotiating all new demands. There is this, however, to be said to his honour, that he is strictly impartial, and treats all the Presidencies alike, and looks with as much jealousy at any request for more money

from the Government of Bengal, as from the Presidency of Madras. Perhaps there is wisdom, in having one officer in the most influential financial position, whose special duty it is to be parsimonious; but this spirit of parsimony requires to be constantly qualified by that spirit of generosity and liberality which ought to characterize the Government of a great country like this.

But, the subordinate Governments have still sufficient freedom of action, to carry out many reforms, and to render their administration highly efficient and beneficial; and it is to be feared that the allusion so often made to their restricted powers, is only the mantle which covers their own indifference to improvement. They are certainly in a far more favorable position, as it regards improvements and expenditure, than the Government of the North West Provinces. The Governors and Councilors at Madras and Bombay are appointed from England, and possess all that influence at the India House, which this circumstance, combined with the prestige inseparable from the antiquity and time honored associations of those Governments can give them. They can, moreover, correspond direct with the Court at home, and they may generally calculate on a favorable hearing, when they appeal from a decision of the Government of India. The Agra Government, on the contrary, is an experiment of yesterday, without antecedents, and, if we are not misinformed, may be suspended whenever the Governor General deems it advisable to do so. It is precisely under the same financial restrictions as the Governments of Bombay and Madras, with this distinctive disadvantage, that the Lieutenant Governor does not correspond direct with the Court of Directors, but is obliged to send all his despatches to the Government of India, who may deal with them according to his own judgment. Yet, under all these disadvantages, the Government of Agra is become so efficient, and so vigorous, as to be considered by many as the model Government of India. The public spirit which pervades the whole of its public establishments, and the animation, and progression which so singularly characterize all the measures of its administration, shew most clearly, that the financial restriction does not necessarily prostrate the powers of Government, and that it is the presence or the absence of energy in the local authorities which forms the real character of the administration.—Lastly, it has been often remarked, that the interests of the two distant Presidencies are neglected, while those of the Presidency of Calcutta are invariably protected in the Council Chamber at Calcutta; whereas, on turning to the statistical return published under the direction of Colonel Sykes, we find that while the sums expended in public works in twelve years in Bengal, amounted to only 49 lakhs of Rupees, the Madras Presidency was allowed to expend no less than 77 lakhs.

**MONEY ORDERS.—POST OFFICE STAMPS.**—We publish a letter from a correspondent, enquiring into the system of what are called money orders at home, and suggesting the adoption of the same plan in this country. By money orders are meant, the orders given by one Post Office on another. A man, for instance, who wishes to transmit the small sum of three or four pounds sterling from one part of England to another, pays it into the nearest Post Office, with a small premium, and receives what may be considered a cheque for the amount on the Post Office in the place to

which he desires to remit the money. The system affords the greatest possible convenience to the public for the remittance of small sums; at the same time, owing to the extreme simplicity of the arrangement, there is little, if any, "botheration," and the small premium which is taken, covers all expenses. To such an extent have the public availed themselves of this admirable system, that the sum thus remitted from one part of England to another is the course of the year, amounts to seven millions sterling, or nearly three times the whole amount of receipts in the department.

The Post Office Commissioners in Calcutta have decided against the propriety of adopting this measure in this country, and we think they have decided rightly. Our establishments in India are not suited to such a system. We have no honest agency for carrying it out, and it would scarcely be justifiable to place the large temptations it would afford in the way of men of limited allowances, who would be unable to resist them. We should have endless frauds and peculation, more especially, when all European superintendence and control was removed from the Post Offices in the interior, and the whole management of the office throughout a district was entrusted to a Moonabee on 60 Rs. a month, who was checked only by the Post Master General of the Presidency. The main principle of the reformed system proposed by our Commissioners is the restriction of the spending of money in the district Post Offices, as much as possible, and their opinion in this respect is unimpeachable. Still, we cannot help remarking by the way, that it seems marvellously inconsistent to lay down so admirably a principle, and then to negative it immediately by allowing the great bulk of all letters to be sent without a stamp, and to be paid for ~~the~~ money into the office.—Be that as it may, the Commissioners are right in reducing the amount of money passing through the hands of the native officers of the department to the smallest sum; and money orders would completely nullify this rule, and place the whole amount of the Post Office revenue within their reach.

But though it would be injudicious, and even dangerous, to introduce such a system into this country, and to allow the Post Office Moonbees to draw cheques upon each other, yet the newspaper stamps will inevitably become the means of remitting small sums from one part of the country to the other, and thus supply one of the most pressing wants of the native community. In a very short time, we shall find a man in Calcutta who has occasion to remit 8 Rupees, for instance, to some relative at Cawnpore, enclosing 24 two-anna stamps to be sold to some banker at that station; and we think that Government could not do better than to encourage such a plan by introducing into the new Act a clause authorising both the Post Office of the district, and the Collector's office to give the money value for any number of stamps which might be presented. This would impart a vast impulse to the system, and promote the public convenience to a ~~sufficient~~ extent of which we can at present form no conception; at the same time, it may be effected without interfering with that simplicity of procedure which it is so necessary to introduce into our system. The Dark Moonabee would be obliged to account for all the stamps which he purchased of the public, as well as for those which he received from the Collector. The stamp would assume the character of a bank note, and perform all its functions, and carry with it all the benefits of a paper currency;

and we should not be surprised to find the whole Post Office revenue thus constantly in transit throughout the country.

**THE RAIL AND ITS TERMINUS.**—We inadvertently omitted last week to state that the Government of India had wisely determined, upon the recommendation of the Railway authorities, to meet the wishes of the Colliery proprietors, and the Trades' Association regarding the Terminus question. Instead of terminating the Rail in the Raneeunge Colliery, it is, for the present, to proceed no farther than the 85th Mile, nearly two miles on this side of that establishment. This decision has given universal satisfaction to all the proprietors of the Coal works, except the Bengal Coal Company. It will give all parties equal facilities of access to the Rail, and enable them to use it without hindrance or molestation for the transport of their Coal. The great aim of the Bengal Coal Company for many years has been to drive all competitors from the field, and to secure for themselves the entire monopoly of this article. To have planned the terminus of the Rail at their head quarters at Raneeunge would, therefore, have given them the exclusive command of the market, and enabled them to raise the price of the article to suit their own interests. The endless annoyances to which their rivals would have been subject if the terminal station had been on their own domain, would ~~specifically~~ have constrained the other companies to relinquish their enterprise; and there can be no hesitation in saying, that it would have been far more advisable to abandon the Colliery line altogether, than to expend thirty lakhs of Rupees in giving a monopoly to one Company, with whose overbearing and unscrupulous proceedings the other proprietors have heretofore been constrained to maintain so severe a struggle. We are fully convinced, that if the determination to place the terminus at Raneeunge had not been wisely abandoned, the question would have been brought forward in the House of Commons, and the proprietors of the other Collieries would have endeavored to obtain that consideration and justice from Parliament which was denied them by the Government of India.

The time having now expired for the receipt of tenders for the construction of the rail from Pandooah to the Collieries, the proposals which have been sent in by six or seven candidates have been examined by the Railway Staff, and are now before the Government of India. Every moment of this fine cold weather is worth its weight in gold, and we sincerely trust there will not only be no unnecessary delay—for delays are a matter of necessity to the dilatory—but no delay whatever in deciding the question and apportioning the contracts, so that operations may be commenced forthwith. It is understood that there is some hitch about making over the land while the crops are upon it, because it is not desirable to put Government to the expense of paying for them. The utmost amount of the damage which must be made good for the crops, according to the largest calculation, does not exceed 20,000 Rs. But this is evidently an overvaluation, for, owing to the drought of this year, there is, unfortunately, not a ear of corn for fifteen miles on either side of Burdwan. But, supposing the amount to be 20,000 Rs. as the crops will not be cut before the middle or end of January, the question immediately arises whether it is worth while to retard the progress of a Rail for three months to save the sum of 20,000 Rs. to Government,

—when the salaries of those employed on the Railway staff will, during this period, amount to double this sum. We hope this fresh anomaly will not be added to all that have preceded it, for it would go far to shew that our Government here has not yet reached that point of civilisation at which time becomes money. Besides, we do not wish for the history of the Rail at this Presidency to get into Punch, however much that gentleman would value it.

**LORD HARDINGE'S NOTIFICATION.**—The following Circular Order has just been issued by the Sudder Board—

No. 21.  
From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Province, to the Commissioner of Revenue, *etc.* Dated Fort William, the 23d September, 1891.

The Honble the Court of Directors having called for information as to how far the instructions given in Lord Hardinge's Resolution of 1844, regarding the employment of educated Natives in public Offices have been carried into effect, I am directed to request that you will prepare a Statement (A) in the accompanying form of persons whose names have been included in the Returns furnished annually by the Council of Education and published in the Gazette, and who have been appointed to a public Office in any of the Departments subordinate to you.

2d. By the Resolution it is declared to be "the duty of Controlling Officers with whom the nomination of appointments made by their Subordinates to see that a sufficient explanation is afforded in every case in which the selection may not have fallen upon an educated candidate whose name is borne on the printed returns." I am desired to enquire how far this instruction has been attended to since the publication of the first return in 1845, and whether it is now observed.

3d. I am also directed to request that you will furnish a separate Statement (B) in the same form of persons (not included in the former Statement) who have been appointed to any Government or Private College or School, and have been appointed to a public Office in any of the departments subordinate to you, since the date on which the Resolution was promulgated.

(Signed) A. C. BOWATT, Secretary.

It is very gratifying to find that the attention of the Court of Directors has been attracted to this important subject, and we trust it will result in a thorough reform of the present system. The information which the Court seek regarding the Notification issued by Lord Hardinge seven years ago, may be found at once in the last report of the Council of Education. During this period, the whole number of meritorious students declared by that body to be qualified for the public service by their proficiency is Forty-one, or at the rate of about seven students a year, out of the 6,000, who are engaged in the study of English literature, and science, in the public and private institutions in and about Calcutta. The Court will find that their instructions on the subject have been "better kept in the breach than the observance." The broad and liberal principle on which the Notification was founded, and which attracted the applause of the civilized world, was superseded in a little more than six months, by other rules, the operation of which has been to exclude all private seminaries from all participation in the impulse which it was designed to give to the cause of Education. The principle of caste is apparently so inherent in the soil of India, that even those who bring a stock of liberal views from England with them, find themselves insensibly brought under the predominant influences of the country. The original Notification of 1844 placed all the educational institutions among us, both public and private, upon a footing of equality, and gave them, according to their respective merits, the same chance of contributing candidates for the public service. The remodelled Notification of 1845, established a new standard, which gave the Government Colleges what the Court of Directors described as a Monopoly of Office. In fact, it divided the institutions into a brahmin caste and a soodra caste, the Government institutions ranking among the former; the private institutions among the latter. The students whose names are included in the annual returns may be considered as hold-



















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**PREFERRED ANXICITIES AND ENDOWMENTS FOR INDIA.**

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Established by Act of Parliament 18th May, 1851.  
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Agents: Messrs. J. & A. COHEN, 1, Commercial Place,  
London, W. and 1, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4.

Age	Rate	After 25 years
20	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0
25	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0
30	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0

Example.

Agents: Messrs. J. & A. COHEN, 1, Commercial Place,  
London, W. and 1, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4.

Age	Rate	After 25 years
10	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0
15	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0
20	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0

Agents: Messrs. J. & A. COHEN, 1, Commercial Place,  
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25	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0
30	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0

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20	Rs. 12 0	Rs. 10 0

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# THE FRIEND OF INDIA.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING.

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SRERAMPORE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1851.

Price 2 Cts. Rs. monthly or 30 Rs. yearly if paid in advance.

## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

EXPRESS OVERLAND MAIL VIA BOMBAY.

THE Government of Bombay having appointed the 24th of the ensuing month of December for the departure of the first steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Soet. Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date, for the transmission of letters and papers from Calcutta, which may be intended for conveyance by that opportunity, will be Saturday, the 22nd instant, and that the first set of the Overland Fackets will be closed as, and despatched from this Office, on Friday, the 21st idem.

J. R. BURLINGTON BERRY.

Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, 1st November, 1851.

NOTICE.—The packet, which contained the letters, &c. posted at the General Post Office on the 5th, 6th, 8th and 10th ultimo, shipped on board the *Margaret* daily for transmission to the Mauritius, was lost during the late Gale.

J. R. BURLINGTON BERRY.

Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Calcutta, General Post Office,  
The 11th November, 1851.

OVERLAND SUMMARY.—The Express from Bombay with the Mail of the 8th October arrived in Calcutta on Thursday, the 12th instant, after a passage of only thirty-five days. The intelligence it has brought is of exceedingly little interest, the principal items relating to the Crystal Palace and the Sub-Marine Electric Telegraph. The Exhibition is to be finally closed on the 12th October, without any ceremonial beyond an address to Prince Albert, and the removal of the articles it contains will commence on the same day. The Palace itself will probably stand for some time longer, but its ultimate destruction would appear to have been resolved on. Meanwhile, the flood of visitors anxious to obtain another glimpse of the departing glories of the edifice continues to increase, the number rising on the 8th October to 107,000, and on the 7th to one hundred and nine thousand persons. With the exception of some of the ancient amphitheatres, this is probably the largest number of human beings ever collected in any European building. No disorder or accident of any kind occurred, and a poor French Priest of St. Malo who had lost his pocket book on his way to the building, received it again from the police officer on the following morning, and paid a just tribute to the perfect order which is preserved in the enormous capital of England, without the aid of sabres or bayonets. The money taken at the doors of the second of these two days, amounted to £2321, 10s. and as the arrangements of the exhibition did not allow of change being given, the half crowns and shillings weighed no less than 1500 weight. The total number of visitors up to October 4th, was five million five hundred and forty-seven thousand, two hundred and thirty-eight, which would give a representative to every family in England, but from this vast number must be deducted a great many whose curiosity was not satisfied by a single visit. The total receipts up to the same date were 489,211l. and it was expected that the following week would add at least 20,000l. more, while the gross expenditure would probably amount to £220,000, leaving a balance in favour of the Commissioners of £280,000. No definite information has yet been afforded as to the ultimate disposal of this surplus, but it is not improbable that it may be appropriated to the erection of a new National Gallery, more worthy of England than the present assembly edifice. In any case, whether the Palace be allowed to stand, or be sold as old

glass, and in whatever mode the funds accumulated may be applied, its history will be the noblest monument of the first half of the nineteenth century, and the highest illustration of the wealth, order, and mechanical ability of the Saxon Race.

The Sub-Marine Electric Telegraph between England and France has at length been completed, and Paris is placed in instantaneous communication with London. So perfect is the isolation of the "wire,"—a strong iron cable—that a cannon was fired from the ramparts of Calais by means of electricity passed along the line from England. As the French Government had inserted in their contract a stipulation, that the line should be completed by the 1st of October, the contractors were compelled to lay down their cable in the height of the equinoctial gales, and it is considered that if the cable remains untouched for the next two months, its success may be regarded as complete. It is not likely that the experiment will be allowed to stop here, and it is not impossible that in a very few years, when accumulated experience shall have increased the knowledge and the confidence of its projectors, the Sub-Marine Electric Telegraph will bid together the most important possessions of England in one instantaneous chain of communication. Why should it appear incredible that by the year 1890, we may have a daily communication between England and India?

The political intelligence of the fortnight at home affords nothing beyond the ordinary rumours of the coming session. It appears certain that the most influential leaders of the Protectionist party have acknowledged that a return to their favourite policy is hopeless, and that they must now agitate for a readjustment of the burdens on land. The Earl of Derby is confined by a fit of the gout, and has not yet given expression to his views, but there can be little doubt that he coincides with Mr. Disraeli. Kosuth, the great Hungarian, has been released by the Sultan, and conveyed on board the American frigate *Mississippi*, the Commander of which presented him, on his embarkation, with 15,000 dollars, a gift from the Government of the United States. On landing at Marseilles, Kosuth was warmly received by the people, but the Republican Government actually refused him permission to pass through France on his way to England, whither he proceeds with the view of leaving his children to be educated. He will then continue his journey to America and join his fellow countrymen in Iowa, where a grant of land has been assigned them by the United States. His reception in England is expected to be of the most gratifying description. The corporation of London have already voted him the freedom of the city.

The emigration from Ireland shows no sign of cessation or diminution. Although the winter has commenced, and the prospect of suffering to the emigrants on their arrival in America is thereby increased, nothing appears to affect the Irish except the dread of a longer residence in their own country. Every railway train is filled with emigrants, many of these respectable farmers, and in the southern ports, ships cannot be procured to convey them in sufficient numbers to the opposite coast of the Atlantic.

The recent discovery of the Australian Gold fields will give a new impetus and a new direction to the movement, and it has been calculated that if the present rate of deportation continues, there will not be a Celtic family left in Ireland in five years.

The political aspect of the Continent is unusually quiet, and there has not been a single conspiracy discovered in France throughout the fortnight. It is confidently asserted, that the Generals of the French Army would not stand by Louis Napoleon in the event of an appeal to arms, and that the only chance of his continuance in power, is from a re-election in March 1852 by a majority so enormous as to crush all attempts at opposition. In order to deprive him even of this chance, it has been proposed to make it a penal offence for the clerks who enumerate the votes at elections, to receive those bearing the name of the President. Such a measure if passed, will precipitate the collision between the President and the Assembly, but in France the legislative power is always at a disadvantage when arrayed against the executive, and it will be easy for the President to place his own creatures as clerks of the poll. The news from the remaining states of the Continent is unimportant. There is a rumour that the Pope has become weary of the dictation of his French masters in Rome, and intends to place himself under Austrian protection at Bologna. The political independence of the Holy See is evidently gone beyond redemption. Unless supported by the bayonets of some other European power, the Pope would be constrained again to fly from Rome.

The obituary of the fortnight contains some well known names. The most important are Lord Liverpool, whose title becomes extinct, and Prince Frederick of Prussia, the uncle of the present monarch, chiefly known in history for the part he took in the disastrous battle of Jena. He expired on the 28th December. Lord Calthorpe, Lord Bellingham, Lord Stafford, and Mr. Fenimore Cooper, the American novelist, are also in the list, which includes likewise the names of Professor Wolff, the Orientalist, Count Benetlow, the Danish Ambassador in London, and Cardinal d'Astros, the Archbishop of Toulouse, who plumed up the walls of Paris, the sentence of excommunication pronounced by Pius VII. against Napoleon.

THE EXPEDITION TO RANGOON left Calcutta on Tuesday morning.—It consists of the H. M. ship *Fax*, and the H. O. steamer *Zuescheria* which last vessel has been fully equipped, and supplied with a European crew. The steamer now at Maulmein, and H. M. S. *Serpent* will join the expedition in the Rangoon river, and present a force sufficient to reduce the tyrannical Governor of Bangoon to a state of despair, though two or three broadsides from the *Fax* would probably have been sufficient for that purpose. Lord Dalhousie has wisely determined to entrust the negotiation to the same energetic ambassadors, whom Cromwell employed in his negotiations, just two centuries ago, who "spoke all languages, and never took a refusal," we mean, our remials of war. And there can be no doubt, that the same success will attend the present

demonstration, and that the Burmese elephant will humble itself in the dust before the British Lion. We feel confident that the vigorous measures now pursued by his Lordship in demanding reparation for the insults and injuries inflicted on British subjects, will meet with the same cordial approbation from the public authorities at home, which they have experienced from all parties in this country. The Commodore is instructed, it is said, to demand an ample apology, and 10,000 Rs. damages. This sum may not exactly cover the losses sustained by the British Commanders, but demanded, as it will be, at the cannon's mouth, it will be sufficient to subdue the pride and improve the manners of the Burmese authorities. It is not, however, improbable, that when the Governor finds an armed British fleet in the river, he may retire at once from the town, so as effectually to prevent all intercourse, in which case the Commodore may find himself in "a fix," unless he has orders to bombard Rangoon. But, even if he should succeed in obtaining indemnity for the past, we can only look for security for the future to the permanent establishment of a Consular Agent at Rangoon, who shall be supported by the constant presence of a war steamer. This measure would not only prove highly beneficial to the interests of British commerce, but would tend to draw forth the resources of the country, and promote the comfort and happiness of the people themselves.

After this was in the "form," we perceive it stated in the Calcutta *Morning Chronicle*, that the sum to be demanded far exceeds 10,000 Rs., and may be more than the Rangoon Treasury can furnish, and that if it be not paid without delay, the Commodore will take possession of Rangoon. This will certainly be far more advisable than battering it, and slaughtering the innocent inhabitants. It will also have the beneficial effect of making a deeper impression on the Durbar at Ava, and preventing a repetition of these insults. If it should result in a war—why we shall annex Pegu to the empire; and be enabled to open a postal communication by land to the Tenasserim provinces.

**ABDICATION OF THE MANCHOU DYNASTY IN CHINA.**—Our latest advices from Hong Kong extend only to the end of September, and the reports which they have given of the progress of the great rebellion, are exceedingly scanty, owing to the impossibility of procuring accurate information from this seat of war. It has hitherto been the general impression that the progress of hostilities was towards the south, and that the great object of Tien-Teh, the Commander, was to obtain possession of the great seaport of Canton. Important intelligence has, however, just been received at Darjeeling through a Lama, who came in twenty days from Lassa to the Sikim Durbar, that the Rebels have been steadily advancing towards the North, and that when they approached Peking, it was deemed advisable for the present Emperor to quit the capital and retire. He is stated to have abdicated the throne, about eight weeks ago, and the leader of the rebellion, a descendant of the old Ming dynasty, immediately succeeded it. There is said to have been no engagement in the neighbourhood of Peking; the Manchou Dynasty had lost the prestige of its power, and yielded at once to the force of circumstances. How far this intelligence is to be relied on, it is impossible to say; we give it on the authority of the Lama, and as it has reached us. But we well remember that on a former occasion the intelligence received at Darjeeling by the land route from China, and which had anticipated the news

by sea, was fully corroborated at a subsequent period, and there is nothing in the circumstances of the empire to give an air of incredibility to the present report, however startling it may appear.

**REPORT OF THE RAILWAY COMMISSIONER REGARDING THE LAND.**—The 4th Number of the Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government just published comprises a valuable report from Mr. Lushington, the Commissioner appointed to transfer the land from the Native proprietors to the Railway. It is a very elaborate document, and gives incontestible evidence of the great industry and labor which has been bestowed on the duty committed to him. It occupies no less than 87 Royal octavo pages, and is divided into 13 sections, which treat respectively of the following subjects:

- Direction of the Line and Nature of the Country.
- Clearing of the Centre Line.
- Taking of the Lands and Definition of Claims.
- Adjustment of Claims.
- Liquidation of the Sums awarded to Claimants.
- Result of the Adjustment.
- Nature of the Claims Preferred.
- General Results of the Operations.
- Adjustment of Claims in the Land temporarily occupied.
- Claims to be Referred to Arbitration.
- Next Year's Operations.
- Complaints of Delay.
- Cost of the Property taken.

Mr. Lushington appears to have taken the utmost pains to reduce to the consistency of a system the various processes of measuring the land, and ascertaining the nature of the tenures, the rights of the proprietors and cultivators, and the value of the trees, bamboo, huts, houses, and ground; and upon all these topics, the Report gives the most elaborate details, and the Appendix, the most carefully digested forms. The perusal of this document would lead one to suppose that it was intended for the settlement of a large district, comprising hundreds of thousands of acres, and involving the present and the prospective welfare of half a million of people, rather than a strip of land embracing only 1000 acres. Mr. Lushington was formerly distinguished as one of the most efficient and successful of the resumption and settlement officers employed under the Government of Bengal, and he has brought not only all the experience, but no small portion of the official habits, he then acquired, into his present vocation, and introduced not a few of the rules and directions and forms of procedure which were found so useful in his former duties, into this new, but temporary, department. Throughout the whole of these details we perceive a constant anxiety to combine the economical interests of the state with strict justice towards the parties whose interests were to be affected by these operations, and justice demands that we should pay homage to the principle by which his proceedings have been regulated. Still, it may be permitted us to doubt whether all this complicated procedure, however well adapted to operations which require more accuracy than speed, are equally well suited to those of the Railway in which time is the most important element, and we think that a more simple, expeditious, and summary procedure, even if it had entailed an increased expenditure of some 2000 or 3000 Rs. would have been more advisable in an undertaking which was to cost fifty times that sum. There can be no doubt that the successful efforts which have thus been made to establish the principle and the rules of computing the compensation, by one who has had such experience in the landed tenures of the country and the va-

lue of the land, will be found to facilitate future operations. But we still think that the amount of thought and labor which has been bestowed on this branch of the Railway enterprise, is out of proportion to its relative importance. In the case of the Great Trunk Road, the plan of procedure was more simple and arbitrary; the land was taken over at once without records, and the proprietors were left to the resources of their own ingenuity and impatience to obtain payment, eight, ten or twelve years after. In the present case, the Commissioner appears to have gone into the opposite extreme, and to have multiplied labor and checks, to an extent which was supererogatory, though with the most benevolent intentions.

The reader will be a little surprised to find that the whole quantity of land permanently occupied by the rail, throughout the Forty-one miles of the first Section to which this elaborate and complicated system of procedure has reference, does not exceed 574 acres, and of land temporarily occupied, 1025, making in the whole about 1600 acres. The whole cost of the land of both descriptions is 18,239 Rs. or, at the rate of about 5,000 Rs. or 500 Rs. a mile. This is, of course, exclusive of the terminus at Howrah, which we are sorry to see is to cost only 150,000 Rs. It would have been wiser to have expended double or even triple that sum at the outset to secure all the land which must eventually be required for the metropolitan terminus, when the whole trade from Mirzapore to the marts on the Ganges is poured into it, and which Government will be hereafter constrained to purchase at whatever rate may be demanded, which will, of course, be a most enhanced one. We fear that the determination to avoid the error committed at home of making the rail too costly, has, in this instance, been carried so far as to lead Government into the opposite extreme of parsimony, forgetting that in a case like the present the extremes are sure to touch.—Be that as it may. The land, exclusive of the terminus at Howrah, has cost at the rate of 600 Rs. a mile, and as that which lies in the other sections on the line to Mirzapore is not likely to be more expensive, the entire expense of the land required may be estimated at about 250,000 Rs. If to this we add, 72,000 Rs. a year for four years as the expense of the establishment employed in making over the ground, and 16,000 Rs. for the land at Howrah, we shall have about 300,000 Rs. at the outside, for about 500 miles of land—cheap enough, compared with the fancy prices which have been demanded and paid for land in England. This sum, together with the 5 per cent. on the capital, guaranteed by the Court of Directors, which will, however, be diminished, if not extinguished, as soon as the two lines to the Collieries, and to Rajmahal are completed—will form the whole demand on the public resources of India for a line which is to connect the great mart in the North West, and the intermediate towns, with the great port of the Gangetic valley.

In the concluding portion of his Report, Mr. Lushington takes up the charge of delay, which has been so often made, and endeavors to exonerate his department from all blame. We have no wish to rake up defunct grievances, and are therefore desirous of giving due weight to the extenuating considerations which the Commissioner has so successfully adduced. Mr. Lushington had nothing to do with delays which occurred before he entered on his work. For these no justification at all can be offered. The time was dawdled away, simply, because

time has never yet been considered of any value in this country, whether the Government was in the hands of Hindoos, Mahomedans, or Christians. The disease of procrastination is endemic in India. The draft of the Act for giving the land, was read in Council, for the first time, on the 30th August, after three entire months had been squandered in drawing it up, though, considering the extreme simplicity of its provisions, a fortnight would have been sufficient. It ought to have been passed, according to the expectation held out, and in compliance with the exigency of the case, on the 1st of November, when the season of operations began. But there were endless forms and references to be gone through, every one of which cost time, and in this undertaking time is money. The 1st of November came, but no Act with it, and it was not till the 24th of December, when nearly half the season of operations had elapsed that the Act appeared in the *Gazette*. The Bengal Government, with laudable speed, appointed Mr. Lushington Railway Commissioner on the 12th of September, he was thus constrained to remain inactive for three months, and the first foot of ground was only made over for these operations on the 24th of January, that is to say, after 84 days out of the 120 which are the most favorable for the Railway had been thrown away, notwithstanding the reiterated injunctions of the Court of Directors, that no time should be lost in making over the land. The perfect indifference with which this order was treated, very naturally created a suspicion that the Government had private opportunities of knowing that the anxiety manifested by the public authorities in England for the speedy commencement of the work was more ostentatious than real; and this again brought the sincerity of the Court of Directors into question. After Mr. Lushington had been enabled to begin in good earnest, the work of transfer went on with rapidity, and by the end of May, that is, in about four months and a quarter, thirty-three miles out of forty-one, had been transferred to the Railway Engineers. This was, of course, as much as the contractors could operate upon, and we think it is clearly demonstrated that after the first period of inaction, the progress of the work was little, if at all delayed, in Mr. Lushington's department.

The operations of the present season embrace 81 miles, extending from Pundooch to the Collieries, and if the breadth of land required for permanent or temporary occupation, and the value of trees, huts, and houses be the same as in the first Section, the quantity of land to be taken and transferred will amount to 9,000 biglas, or 3,000 acres, and the value of all the trees and huts and houses to be paid for, to *One lakh of Rupees*. It is highly desirable that the experience which has been acquired during the operations of the past season, should be brought fully to bear on those of the present period, and that every possible effort should be made to curtail the forms, and simplify the proceedings, and complete the transfer at the earliest possible period. The trees and huts should be paid for at once, on the spot, and removed. This short and summary process will serve rather to reduce than to enhance their cost, inasmuch as the natives will prefer a smaller sum, paid down on the nail, to a larger one, when it is burdened with forms, and delays, and expenditure; for we must not forget, that as a native has always to pay for speed money—procrastination being the most approved form of extortion in the east—every additional form costs the poor ryot an additional

sum. But even if it should be found that the adoption of this simple procedure, of "paying as we go" raised the value of the trees and huts from 100,000 to 110,000 Rupees, still the time gained would be of infinitely more importance than the sacrifice of 1000£. All ideas, moreover, of allowing one single day, or one hour to be lost in order to avoid paying for the standing crops, must be at once abandoned. We adhere to the report that the land is not to be made over, on economical considerations, till the crops have been cut and removed by the ryots. We are certain that if Lord Dalhousie, who is so thoroughly at home in all railway questions, were on the spot, such a proposal would not be listened to for a moment. The golden hours of this cold weather, must not be sacrificed to save the little peddling sum of 1500 or 2000£. The Supreme Council should manifest that respect which is due to the interests and character, as well as to the delicate position of their Masters in Leaden Hall Street at the present time, and at once order all the crops to be assessed, paid for, and removed. The Court of Directors will not thank them for giving such a handle to their enemies during the sitting of the Parliamentary Committee, as would be afforded by the report, that the Rail had been postponed for months, to save a sum which, after all, would not amount to more than 20 or 30£ a day, for two months. We are happy to find Mr. Lushington recommending that the adjustment of claims should be carried on at the same time with the measurements. We hope this improvement will be enforced in every instance; it will abridge the labor of the Government officers, and prove highly satisfactory to the parties who claim the lands. "Prompt and final," should be the motto of the Commissioner's office, and we may then expect that the whole of the land to the Collieries will be made over and paid for, and the labors of the Commission on this line be brought to a termination before the beginning of the next rains. It is reported that Mr. Lushington intends to visit the line of the Second section himself, and to spend the whole of the present cold weather in personally superintending the operations, and we most sincerely trust the report will turn out to be correct. Mr. Lushington's presence along the line of operations, in this fine bracing season, will serve more effectually to simplify and expedite the operations than whole realms of foolscap. Under his immediate superintendence, the houses, huts, and trees can be paid for to the proprietors at once, from the bags which would accompany him, and the determination of the measurements, assessments, and adjustments would advance at a most gratifying pace. One day in the field is always worth three days in the office.

SALT FOR THE "HOUSEHOLD WORDS."—The *Delhi Gazette* has drawn attention to a singular error into which Mr. Dickens has fallen in the "Few Facts about Salt," published in his "Household Words" for July last, and giving us some valuable statistical information regarding the price of the Salt consumed in the North-West Provinces, which will be found among our selections. Mr. Dickens states that, owing to the Government duty on Salt, the price to the consumer is about *eight pence a pound*, and that every man who earns three shillings a week, is obliged to expend one-fourth of that pittance in Salt for himself and family; that is to say, that every man who earns 6 Rs. 8 annas a month, expends no less than 1 Rupee 10 annas of this amount in Salt. This statement shows how profound is the igno-

rance which prevails on Indian subjects among the most able and gifted men in England, notwithstanding the regular and rapid intercourse which has now been established between the two countries by means of a double monthly steam post. Mr. Dickens will be not a little surprised to find how grossly he has been misinformed, and his confidence abused, when he learns that the price of Salt to the consumer, including the Government duty, is *not eight pence a pound*, but just one penny a pound, and no more. Whenever Salt sells at a higher price, the difference arises from the expense of conveyance, which would fall equally on the Salt, even if it were sold for next to nothing. Yet this statement of Mr. Dickens, through the well merited popularity, and the vast circulation of his publication, will become familiar to the community in England as Household Words, and will long continue to form the staple of their opinions on the subject of Indian Salt. Unless he can be prevailed on to admit the correction of this singular and palpable error into his own journal, it can never expect to reach one in a hundred of those who have imbibed this notion from its pages. The appointment of a Parliamentary Committee to receive evidence on our Indian policy and proceedings, and the debates of the year 1833, will, undoubtedly, serve in some measure to dispel the ignorance and the errors which prevail. Still, the injury which such statements do to the cause of improvement in India is great; they attract the public attention to grievances, which seem to be inseparable from the maintenance of Government, and which are to a great extent imaginary, and withdraw it from the real errors of our administration, which are susceptible of correction.

THE OPENING OF THE INDUS.—We have inadvertently allowed this measure to remain without due commemoration, but the opening of the "silent" Indus, to British enterprise is far too important an event in the History of India to be treated with indifference. The river may now be considered a British river, because we have performed the act of appropriation by establishing a line of British steamers on it, and incorporating it among the highways of this empire. It is impossible to contemplate the progress which this great event indicates without having the mind involuntarily carried back to the celebrated Parliamentary declaration of 1784, to the effect that "to pursue schemes of conquest and extension of dominion in India, are measures repugnant to the wish, the honor, and policy of this nation." And so, in order to prevent the possibility of any measure so contrary to our national interests, Parliament proceeded to make the most stringent provisions for confining our Indian territories within the limits existing at the time, and preventing their increase. The best comment on that Resolution is Lord Dalhousie's Notification of the establishment of a monthly line of Steamers on the Indus, to open a communication between our most westerly port at Kurrachee, and our newly formed Civil and Military Establishments at Multan and Lahore. If we want any fresh token of the vanity of human wishes, and the short-sightedness of human policy, and the folly of human wisdom, it is to be found in this resolution of a Parliament of which Pitt and Fox, and Burke and Sheridan, and Windham and Brough were the ornaments,—as if it were possible by a vote of the House to fix the limits of our Indian dominions, and to prevent the kingdom of Bengal from expanding into the empire of India. How little did those great statesmen comprehend the

natural tendency of circumstances, and the destinies of the Anglo-Saxon race. Look at the Map of their days, which gives us all the British possessions in India in 1784, marked in red, and notice the small patches around Madras and Bombay, and the large patch above Calcutta, and then contrast it with the last map published by Allen with all the recent additions to the empire, and see how the Red has extended all over India, and stretched beyond the Indus, as if we were bent on fulfilling Runjeet Sing's great prophecy. "Sub lai ho jagu!"—"It will all become red." In 1784, our advanced post was at Cawnpore; it is now in the Esauite country on the left bank of the Cabul river. At this Presidency, we have intermediate-ly subjugated the whole of Northern India, with the exception of the small Protected states, which maintain a shadow of independence by our permission; we have annexed the whole of Seinde, and the whole of the Punjab; and we have now to record the establishment of monthly Steamers on the Indus to connect the Punjab with the sea. It is idle to describe all this as an encroachment, extortion, and usurpation." It is sufficient to say that it was inevitable. If the determination of the British Parliament, and the power of the British Ministry could have restricted the growth of this empire, our farthest garrison would have been still at Cawnpore. But no Act of Parliament, no effort of the public authorities could control the march of circumstances, and the expansion of the British dominions in the East. We have obtained possession of it in spite of ourselves, and this spoiling of the Indus by a line of Steamers, to the enterprises of industry and commerce, which we now record, shows how fortunate it has been for India that the power of Parliament was not commensurate with its wishes. We know that there are some men of limited views, who still continue to regard this extension of the empire as an unerring test of our national delinquency. But they seem to forget that the same law of progression is impressed, doubtless for some wise purpose, on every thing belonging to England. At the time when this self-denying resolution regarding India was passed, the Crown had just lost its magnificent Colonial empire in America, a circumstance which renders that resolution the more remarkable,—and its Colonies were confined to the West India Islands and Canada. They have now swelled to forty-two, and some of them are infant Saxon empires, which, before the close of this century, will embrace a population, in the aggregate, quite as large as that of the mother country. The empire of India has, after all, only progressed in the same ratio as the colonial empire of the Crown, and, indeed, with every other British interest—manufactures, trade, ships, steamers, income, influence. In respect of all these national interests, there is not a greater difference between their condition in 1784 and 1861, than there is between the size and importance of the Indian empire at these two periods.

But we have wandered from the Indus. The steamer is to leave Kurrachee about the 24th and to start from Mooltan, about the 4th of each month. The passengers who leave Mooltan at that date, may calculate on reaching Bombay by the 26th or 27th, in time to proceed to England in the steamer which leaves that port on the 3d of the following month. Passengers will thus be able to reach England from Mooltan, in about two months. The distance between Kurrachee and Mooltan is estimated at 300 miles, about the same as from Calcutta to Allahabad; and the charge for a Cabin for a

first class passenger is 250; for a second 200; for a third 100 Rs.; the downward charge will be two-thirds of this amount. The table is 4 Rupees a day for each person, exclusive of wine and beer, for each child from six to twelve, 2 Rupees; for those under six but not in arms, 1 Rupee. The freight from Kurrachee to Mooltan, is 2 Rs. 8 annas the maund of 80 lbs. These charges, even without considering the novelty of the undertaking, and the large expenses connected with its establishment, are very reasonable indeed. The great convenience which will be conferred on the interests of the community, and of the Government, by the establishment of this steam communication between the Punjab and the sea, will at once suggest itself to the reader. We may soon expect to find all the European troops intended for service in the Punjab, who may come out from England, together with all the stores, landed at once at Kurrachee and conveyed up to their destination by the Indus steamers. This is the inevitable tendency of events, and nothing but the Rail will restore to our own Presidency the advantages it has hitherto enjoyed in its connection with the land of the Five Rivers.

#### RAILWAY BRIDGES, OR LEVEL CUTTINGS.

—One of the most important questions connected with the first Section of the Railway, and more especially in the immediate vicinity of Serampore, is the bisection of the public road by the Rail. In this town, the Rail which runs through it, crosses two roads in the most populous division. About two miles farther on it crosses the great road to Singoor; by which the village of Bydebatty is supplied with vegetables for the Calcutta markets. On the two market days of the week, hundreds of bullocks may be seen bringing the produce of the country, which is cultivated like a garden for many miles round, to this market, from whence scores of boats are employed in transporting it to the metropolis. The native community in Calcutta may almost be said to depend on Bydebatty for their vegetables. This great thoroughfare will be crossed by the Rail, and the people in the neighbourhood have been alarmed at the prospect of having their trade interrupted. It was at first understood, that these three points of bisection would be arched with bridges for the convenience of passengers, carts, carriages, and bullocks; but this would probably have added a lakh and a half of Rupees to the expenses of the Rail,—while the steepness of the gradient to the top of the bridge on either side, would have rendered such an arrangement exceedingly inconvenient, and not a little hazardous.

While we were considering the interests which are here involved in this question, we found that it had been discussed and practically settled at Bombay in reference to two points on very crowded thoroughfares. On the advice of the Consulting Engineer, as it would appear, Government has insisted upon the construction of two bridges for the convenience of the public, under the arch of which the trains are to pass. But these structures have been vehemently censured by some of the Bombay papers, who represent that the inconvenience to which the public will be put by having to send their carriages, carts, and cattle up one inclined plane and down another, with a rise of one in thirty, will be so severely felt, that Government will speedily be constrained to take them down again. Never having seen a Railway ourselves, except on paper, or in a model, we are dependent for our information on others, and we therefore receive with confidence the as-

surance of experienced men that the level crossings—which mean the crossing of the Rail as it stands by pedestrians, cattle, and carriages,—on occasion no inconvenience, and are attended with no danger whatever. A gate planted on either side is closed to the public at the time when the Rail may be expected, and all risk is thus avoided. "In Southampton, Nottingham, and Lincoln, there are level crossings which, when protected by gates, occasion neither inconvenience nor danger." Thus writes the *Bombay Times*, and he adds that a railway has run obliquely across one of the most crowded thoroughfares of the populous and busy town of Dundee, for years, without gates or protectives of any sort, without the occurrence of a single accident. We may therefore reasonably conclude that at the places where our Rail crosses the public road in and near this town, we shall be provided with level crossings instead of bridges; and with the assurance before us, we feel certain they will answer every purpose, and afford sufficient protection from dangers, more especially as for some time to come, we are not likely to have more than one train up and another down during the twenty-four hours. From the discussions which have grown out of the determination of Government to establish two bridges at Bombay, and the opposition it has encountered, we may consider it certain that we shall not be encumbered with them at this Presidency. But it will be indispensable to establish gates, and a vigilant gate-keeper, or the habitual and hereditary carelessness of the natives will lead to constant accidents.

While on the subject of the Rail we may mention, that in consequence of the small quantity of rain which fell during the last season, it is not deemed advisable to lay down the ballast on the line of embankment now ready till after it has had the benefit of being well settled by one heavy rainy season. The intermediate period will be employed in the construction of the bridges and other masonry, and the preparation of the ballast, and the Contractors will thus have an opportunity of extending their attention to the new lines in the Second Section which have been respectively allotted to them.

**TITALYA FAIR.**—From an advertisement in the *Government Gazette* we perceive, that the period for holding this Fair is altered from the months of December and January to those of February and March, to suit the convenience of the natives in the plains. In consequence of the presence of troops in the vicinity in 1860, and the dread which they always inspire, the Fair of that year proved a complete failure. Confidence was happily restored on the next recurrence of the season, when the people were assured that there would be no progress of troops; and, although the number of buyers at first greatly exceeded the sellers, the Fair eventually passed off to the satisfaction of all parties. One man who had brought twenty-four cart loads of Brass utensils, returned home with only one of them unsold. It was generally understood that five-sixths of the investments from the south were advantageously disposed of, while every importation from the Hills was sold at good prices. It is hoped that the later period at which the Fair is to be held this year will ensure additional success. Government has wisely authorized the erection of a shed of permanent materials—the bricks being drawn from the old deserted ammunition works at Titalya. The cost, which is small, bears no proportion to the convenience it will afford the

allure and the advantages which it will confer on the Fair. It has also been determined to provide a large supply of copper coinage for the present gathering, in order to supersede the old and most inconvenient coinage of cowries; and it is to be hoped that the combination of these advantages will increase the popularity and the success of the Fair. We look forward with confidence to its rapidly becoming the means of an extended and most beneficial commerce between the hilly districts of Nepal, Sikkim, and Bhojan, and the plains of Bengal. It is a natural tendency of Fairs, when those who resort to them can calculate on protection from extortion and injustice, to enlarge the sphere of their attractions, till it embraces an immense circuit of country. Every year will improve the reputation of this Fair among the Hill tribes, and render them increasingly anxious to take advantage of the facilities it affords for the disposal of their produce or manufactures. It is through such an institution along which the produce of Bengal, and the manufactures of England, can find their way into those remote and inaccessible regions. The opening of the Rail cannot fail to give a new impulse and animation to the operations of the Fair. The Rail will convey all goods from the metropolis to a station opposite Carragola in less than twelve hours, and from thence a good road will take them to the Fair in three or four days, while the dawk from the Fair to the river, and thence by the Madras Telegraph, will always give intelligence of its proceedings in Calcutta, in less than twenty-four hours. It is difficult to calculate the magnitude which the Fair may attain, when all these appliances are brought to bear upon it, or the extent of good it may eventually become the means of promoting among the tribes to the north.

**THE KEY OF MY HOUSE.**—We republish below, a document taken from the *Mediterrenean*, a Levant Journal, and reprinted by the *Bombay Telegraph and Courier*, which shows that the state of affairs between the Porte and the Pasha of Egypt is becoming serious. The project of constructing a Railroad between Alexandria and Cairo, has always been opposed by the Agents of both the Russian and the French Governments, who believe, and with some justice, that it would indefinitely increase English influence in Egypt, and consequently in the East generally. On the other hand, the Viceroy of Turkey, Reschid Pasha, has always asserted the absolute right of his government to interfere in the internal arrangements of Egypt, and both parties would appear to have persuaded the Sultan to make a determined stand upon the question of this Railway. That this is a mere pretext, and that the opposition proceeds in no degree from hostility to improvement on the part of the Sultan, is evident from the explicit terms in which his Ministers make known their claims to the Pasha.

"As Your Highness in Your Justice, conferring to the provisions of the Sultan relative to the succession, cannot pretend to any thing beyond what is there found stipulated, so the Sublime Porte cannot permit that the Sultan, presented by the said Imperial Edicts be overruled in any manner whatever. We truly hope that Your Highness will admit the necessity of officially demanding the authorisation of the Sublime Porte, for the intended guarantee for this affair, and will also understand that it is not only in the event of the railway from Cairo to Suva, being constructed, that political relations will demand the authorisation of the Sublime Porte. In whatever part of Egypt it may be authorised, it will be necessarily required, as will flow from the above mentioned terms, as from the fact of the said railway being authorised, to Your Highness by the Sultan relative to the succession. However this may be, it is to repair the error committed by departing from the truth of established principles that it has been just necessary to announce

officially to your Highness that all the arrangements taken for the said railway, before having demanded the requisite authorisation, shall be considered null and void. We moreover consider it a duty to remind Your Highness, that the Sultan is not to be induced in demanding the authorisation of the Sublime Porte to prove to it, that the annual revenues of Egypt above a sufficient surplus to meet the necessary expenses for the construction of the said railway. Moreover, Your Highness must give the most formal guarantee, that no new taxes will be levied, and that purpose; that the present taxes will not be increased, and that the inhabitants will not be compelled to labour gratuitously; and lastly, that no recourse shall be had to war, or to any foreign companies. All the ministers of the Sublime Porte have decided with a common accord, to communicate this note to Your Highness, in conformity with the express order of the Sultan."

This most important document will at once account for the great interest which the question has attracted in London, where, according to the last mail a large meeting was held in support of the Rail. The dispute between the Porte and the Pasha does not refer to the Transit, but to another matter in which we are much more directly interested. The order of the Porte are tantamount to an absolute and entire prohibition of the undertaking. The present revenue of Egypt, we not believe, sufficient for the construction of the Rail; when, therefore, the Grand Seigneur demands a guarantee that no "recourse shall be had to a loan, or to any foreign Companies," it is clearly his intention to forbid the work altogether. There can be no reason for supposing that this obstruction originates at Constantinople. Other works of equal magnitude have been constructed in Egypt, since the treaty, without the necessity of any authorization; and the Pasha has even been permitted to fortify Alexandria, and "render it impregnable." There are evidently other agencies behind the scenes, and if we are to put confidence in a statement published by *Galignani*, that the Russian and Austrian Consuls General have distinctly informed the Pasha that he is expected to submit implicitly in this instance to the orders of his sovereign, it would appear evident that it is these two powers who are straining every nerve to prevent the establishment of the Rail through Egypt, because it would indefinitely increase the influence of England in that country, and that they are precipitating hostilities between the Porte and the Pasha, in order to defeat the project. We question, however, whether Lord Palmerston is the man to allow himself to be bullied out of this great measure. He has already planted four English frigates and war steamers in the harbour of Alexandria; and it is not improbable that the early meeting of the Cabinet Council in London, in the midst of the process, may have had some reference to this great question.

**SARDEN'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE.**—We promised last week to give some notice of the first number of this new undertaking, but we find on looking it over more carefully that its contents have too little connection with India and the East to require a detailed review in our columns. We fear the spirited projector has committed the ordinary mistake of bringing his periodical into direct competition with the *London Magazine*, an attempt which can scarcely be expected to succeed, inasmuch as however able his contributors may be, their labours will be wanting in that air of freshness which is one of the first requisites in a periodical publication. In the present number, with the exception of *AN AFRICANIAN WRITER* BRITISH CAUSE *ET ALAS* or *MISSISSIPPI* there is absolutely nothing that is Indian, though "the Retrogressive of a Young Man," the beginning of a very well written tale, promises to land its hero in this country. A Magazine is not of course expected to be full of antiquarian or historical disquisitions, but there are still rich stores of antiquarian as well as of Indian history to be found in scores of a purely Indian character, and a Dickens or a Thackeray would find the materials of many a "Battle of Life" without ever travelling southward of the Bay.

The article on *Spencer's Life of Mohammed* is evidently written by one thoroughly acquainted with the history of the great Arabian, but we think he has formed far too high an estimate of Mohammed's bearing. That he had "thought of great deal" is unquestionably true, but that he had "read a great deal" is an assertion which demands more direct evidence than the writer appears willing or able to supply. The following extract is at once a concise statement of the dilemma in which those who, like Carlyle, consider Mohammed to be a deceived impostor, place themselves, and it also affords a fair example of the style of the graver articles in the Magazine:—

"To us it would appear that he who maintains that Mohammed believed in the reality of the vision and revelation, must himself believe in the actuality. If the revelation, and that, by consequence, Mohammed was the Prophet of God, or that man is not a reasonable creature. There is no method of escape from the horns of this dilemma. What constitutes the difference between an optical delusion and an actual vision is likely to the person labouring under the former no language, either trifling and banal, or serious, consistent, and sublime, is ever addressed; what constitutes the difference between a dream and a reality is that whenever the sleeper awakes he becomes lucidly sensible of the hallucination. The organs of hearing may become so excited as to convert a trifling into a terrible sound and the organs of sight may be so disordered as to see things as an angel, but these false impressions are transitory. Of course we speak not of those who are labouring under false impressions, that is, the insane. The insane person, however, is an impostor if he does not, on the recovery of his reason, declare the delusions of his former delirious belief. Now if we believe that Mohammed in his exalted state had the power of the intellect to see things as they are, and remaining at such a low distance from him, heard him utter sublime and eloquent sentences of revelation which were perfectly renewed and repeated when he had passed away; that Mohammed himself, when he returned to his senses, bore the marks of a reality of the vision and revelation, then we have an occurrence of the vision, the only one of its kind, and perfectly miraculous, and we must conclude that Mohammed was a real revelation, and that Mohammed was the Prophet of God; or if we reject the miracle and maintain that, after all, it was only hallucination, then man is no longer a responsible being. For then, mind and matter is so connected that the mind is the cause of the body, and the body is the cause of the mind, apparently supernatural, he may be led into the worst delusions and to the commission of the greatest errors. If Mohammed was a real revelation, we must believe that he was a real revelation, and we must believe that he was a real revelation, and we must believe that he was a real revelation. To acquit him would be to sap the foundations of all revelation."

The extracts and translations which we occupy the latter portion of the number appear to be well selected, and the whole is "got up" with a degree of typographical neatness which does great credit to the *Delhi Gazette Press*.

**NEW ARRANGEMENTS OF THE P. AND O. COMPANY.**—The Agents of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company have received instructions by the Mail just arrived, to discontinue dispatching extra steamers from Calcutta to Suva, until the 20th March next. We understand that the existing requirements as regards steamers necessary to carry on the Company's ordinary operations, both at home and abroad, have reluctantly compelled the Directors to adopt this course. As far as the homeward passengers are concerned, this announcement will probably not occasion much disappointment; for during the next 3 months the regular monthly steamers will be amply sufficient to accommodate those desirous of proceeding to England.

For the same reason no extra steamers will be despatched from England as originally intended on the 3rd of January, or 3rd March, but this service will be resumed on the 3rd April, corresponding to the steamers from Calcutta of the 20th March.

It is not, however, intended to discontinue dispatching a steamer from Bombay every alternate month, but only during the months of January and March, to alter the dates of departure so as to accommodate them to the regular mail steamers of the 8th of December and 8th of February.

An extra steamer will accordingly leave Bombay with passengers, and will reach the 17th of February for Aden, to meet at that port, the *Oriental and Hindostan*, leaving Calcutta on the 8th of December and 8th of February respectively, and will wait at Aden for the return of those vessels, in order to convey the passengers, &c., from Aden to Bombay.

The *Patagonia* of 1,800 tons, and 400 horse power, may be expected here in time to take the next extra trip to Suva of the 20th March.

Letters from Bombay state that the *Patagonia* of 1,800 tons, and 400 horse power, was to leave there



























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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

REPORT OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "ORIENTAL," DUE FROM CALCUTTA.  
The Mails for Suez, and the intermediate Ports (Aden, Suez, Alexandria, Port Said, and Brindisi) are closed at 11 o'clock on Saturday, 27th inst., and that an after packet will be dispatched hence on Monday, the 28th inst., with the ordinary Mail, to ensure its arrival at Kedgees in time to reach the Steamer. The public are respectfully requested to be aware that the letters for the Oriental Mail of Friday, 27th inst., must be at the office.

Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Gen. Post Office, the 21st November, 1851.

NOTICE is hereby given for general information, that the Mails for Penang, Singapore, and China, per P. and O. Co.'s Steamer "Oriental," will be closed at this office on Saturday, the 27th inst.

Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Calcutta, General Post Office,  
The 25th November, 1851.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donations:  
From Mrs. S. Jones, Esq. Rs. 100, for the widow of the late Capt. G. A. Brett.  
From P. & C. Co. Rs. 10, to the Ladies' Benevolent Society, Serampore.

THE LEGISLATIVE MEMBERSHIP OF CALCUTTA.—We perceive from the London papers, and we learn from private letters, that the death of our late Legislative Member, Mr. Bethune, was known in England before the dispatch of the last Mail, and that arrangements were in progress for filling up the vacancy. There were several candidates for it in this country, whose claims had been brought before the Ministry with whom the appointment rests, and who added the qualification of local experience to that of legal attainments, but we learn on the best authority that it has been determined that none of the gentlemen now in India shall be appointed to the office, and on the ground that they are supposed to be sufficiently provided for already. It is to be bestowed on some one in England, though his name had not triumphed when the last mail left London. The nomination will be made, conjointly, by the President of the Council and the President of the Board of Control, but it was not known at the latest date in the office in Cannon Row, to whom this lucrative office was likely to be assigned. Mr. Boock probably will not accept it, and Sir Edward Ryan is too much advanced in life to undertake a second pilgrimage to Calcutta.

Meanwhile, it is a matter of public congratulation that the office of President of the Council of Education has been severed from that of the Legislative Council, and accepted by Sir James Colville, Mr. Bethune's successor will not, therefore, be expected or allowed to encumber himself with the more attractive engagements of the Education Board, but will be enabled to devote his time and attention exclusively to the important duties of Legislation, which require the whole strength, mental and physical, of the whole man. If he can create leisure for moving about the country, it should be, not from College to College, but from Court to Court, to study the nature and operation of our judicial institutions, and ascertain from personal investigation and observation, the various points in which they require improvement.

OUR ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—The *Bombay Telegraph and Courier*, in an article of singular urbanity, has noticed our remarks on the construction and working of the Electric Telegraph, and has "ventured to impose on us the trouble of elucidating the subject a little farther, by imparting information on one or two points concerning which, he still requires enlightenment." We fear it will not be in our power to give him so full a reply as to be deemed satisfactory. He appears to have overlooked the fact that we stand in the same position as the rest of the public, and are only able to elucidate that general information on the subject, which may be placed up from our own side. There can be little doubt that the report which Dr. O'Shaughnessy eventually makes to Government on the success of this experiment, will embody all those particulars of which our contemporary is in quest, and as Mr. Lushington's Report on the Railway operations in his department, has been published among the "Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government," it may equally be presumed, that the invaluable report on the Telegraph now in daily operation between Kedgees and Calcutta, will be published in one of its earliest numbers. Meanwhile, we give our Bombay brother as ample an explanation of the points mooted in his article as our present sources of information will supply.

There are separate lines over and under ground, and part of the line is subterranean, but we have not heard in what proportion. For the lines which are above ground between Calcutta and Kedgees, there are no insulating tubes. The river crossings are subaqueous, and different kinds of casings have been used for them, and experiments are still in progress, with the view of discovering the best, for final adoption. The lightning discharges on the lines are intercepted by making a certain portion of them subterranean, with an insulating coating, which keeps out moisture, but allows a charge of high intensity to dart through it to the surrounding earth. Weaker currents do not act on the wire, and derange the instruments; but they are changed immediately, and all goes on well again. It is reported that Dr. O'Shaughnessy has received his share of a flash of lightning across his arm and chest, though without any personal injury. The instrument which was on the table at the time was put out of order, but it was disengaged on the instant, and the only interruption experienced, was, that four or five of the words of the message had to be repeated. As it regards the effect of the heavy rain to which our contemporary alludes, we find that the telegraph has worked uninterruptedly on all our lines between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour without isolation of the line, in the heaviest rains, even in the 10.02 inch fall of the 24th of October last. Hence, no measures what, or are necessary to guard against the effect of rain on our lines.

These who have been accustomed to despair of any progress in this Presidency, will be agreeably surprised to see several inches of intelligence daily given in our Newspapers from Mysapore, Diamond Harbour, and Kedgees, under the head of "Electric Telegraphic Intelligence." It electrifies one to see such a token

of progression daily placed before our eyes in this most backward of all England's dependencies. But it has only served to sharpen our appetite for more. We shall no longer be satisfied without a whole column of News by the Electric Telegraph, every day, from Bombay, from Agra, from Simlah, from Lahore. In the evidence given before the Newspaper Stamp Committee of the Common, Mr. Grovel, the Editor of a New York Paper, acquainted the members by stating that his paper contained from three to five columns of telegraphic news in times of Congress and Legislative Sessions; and always from one to two columns. The *Bombay Telegraph and Courier* says, he goes farther than we do, and desires to see the Telegraph employed not only between Calcutta and the principal towns in the Bengal Presidency, but in connecting the minor Presidencies with Bengal, and all three with the North West Provinces. If he will look to our back numbers, he will find that we have long since anticipated his wishes on this subject. We mentioned Mirzapore, and the intermediate towns in our last article, simply in reference to the intelligence which had just been received of the consent of the Court of Directors to the extension of the Railway to that mart. But we are perfectly confident, that if the Electric Telegraph once gets to Mirzapore, it cannot, and will not be allowed to stop there, but must be advanced to Agra as to the central point, and diverge from thence to Bombay, Simlah, and Lahore. We cordially agree in the sentiment so well expressed by our Bombay contemporary, "that if Lord Dalhousie could contrive to initiate this great improvement before laying down the reins of Government, there can be no question that he would establish a claim to the gratitude of his contemporaries, and the honorable remembrance of posterity, greater even than he has acquired by the conquest and annexation of the Punjab. It would, indeed, be among the noblest "peace triumphs."

HYDRABAD.—PAYMENT OF THE NIZAM'S DEBT.—The information given by the Hyderabad correspondent of the *Manchester Times* has been confirmed by the *Bombay Times*, and we have now the assurance that the whole of the debt due by the Nizam to the British Government, amounting to about 800,000 Rs. was punctually paid up by the 1st of November, through the able arrangements of the Minister, Seraj-ool-Mulk. The districts in Berar which would otherwise have been forfeited to Government, have thus been saved, and the kingdom of Hyderabad remains for the present in all its integrity. From all we can learn on the subject, the sum has been made up by a contribution, to the extent of Thirty lakhs of Rupees, from the Nizam's own treasury, which he refused for a long time to touch, but was constrained to break in upon, at the eleventh hour, in order to preserve his territory. It is to be feared, however, that the measures which have been adopted to raise 60 out of the 80 lakhs, will only serve to render the position of the Nizam eventually more critical. If we, we believe, been obtained either by loans bearing a high interest, and the repayment of which must tend still more to embarrass his finances, or by anticipations of the revenue. But, unless this exertion which has

both successful in preserving his dominions for the nonce, be followed up by the most vigorous efforts of retrenchment, he will find that he has only staved off the evil day; his finances must again fall into a state of derangement, and his kingdom be eventually absorbed. Great censure is lavished by the local journals on the British Government, for having occasioned these embarrassments by constraining the Nizam to maintain a Contingent force, commanded by European officers, at an annual expense of about 350,000*l.*, whereas the treaty of 1801 simply bound him to furnish a Contingent of his own, of 16,000 men, in time of war. It appears idle, however, to rake into the various circumstances which during the last fifty years have gradually led to the substitution of this Contingent force for the troops originally stipulated for. There are few transactions in which a very critical mind, even when it is not captiously disposed, may not find an abundance of flaws. It is just possible that a careful and impartial investigation of the whole negotiation might exhibit some palliation of the boundless enormity with which this series of transactions now stands charged. But even admitting the full turpitude of our national guilt in the matter of the Contingent, still it has to be attributed among the successive functionaries who have contributed to this consummation, and they have all ceased to be any thing but mere historic personages.

Supposing, then, the claims of historical justice to be fully satisfied by apportioning to each of our successive Governors General, and each successive Resident at Hyderabad his individual share of the censure due to the gradual process of converting the Nizam's rabble of 16,000 into a well organized Contingent of 10,000; we arrive at the real question now at issue,—what are Lord Dalhousie and General Fraser, who are responsible for the peace and tranquillity of the Deccan in the year of Grace 1861 to do, under existing circumstances? We believe it is a well established fact, that the Nizam himself has more than once strenuously resisted the dissolution of this force, and that he would consider it at this moment the greatest calamity to his reign. He retains in his service a large body of mercenaries, impetuous, turbulent, unmanageable, and it is the presence of the Contingent alone that prevents his being swallowed up by his own native army. It is that force which stands between him and perdition. It cannot be broken up without the most imminent peril to the security of his throne, and the peace, not only of his kingdom, but also of our own contiguous districts. No British functionary who has any regard to his own reputation for sanity, could recommend the dismissal of this Army. Yet, it is certain, that the Hyderabad Treasury cannot support both the Contingent at 35 or 40 lakhs of Rupees, and the Nizam's own army at more than double that cost. One of the two must be reduced, or financial difficulties will multiply, till they end in the loss of political independence. The question is, which of these ought to be reduced, and even those who are disposed most strenuously to condemn our Government, will not, we think, hesitate to pronounce that the troops who protect the country from sacking and pillage, should continue, and those who are at the root of every disturbance and are sources of perpetual alarm, should be paid up and disbanded. If, therefore, the Nizam, through that spirit of infatuation which appears inherent in the purple born princes of India, should determine not to part with his own costly and rebellious rabble, and should thus increase the disorganization of his exchequer,

and hasten the dismemberment of his territories, upon his head alone will rest the responsibility of his fall. We firmly believe that if he were to pay up the Contingent punctually, and set himself vigorously to quench the disorders which prevail in his own territories, he might feel certain that no attempt whatever would be made to detain him, or to absorb his kingdom. Even if he had any apprehension of our designs, his own troops could not defend him for a week against the superior force which we can at once bring into the field. For all military purposes, therefore, his troops are utterly useless; they are maintained to gratify the foolish pride which leads the Nizam to delight in the existence of an army, which receives no orders but from himself or his minister. If he chooses to risk the safety of his kingdom in order to indulge these feelings of paradox—let not the weight of censure fall upon the British Government.

#### HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL IN CALCUTTA.

We have the pleasure of publishing the prospectus of a Homoeopathic Hospital about to be established in Calcutta, under the patronage of Sir John Littler, and the superintendence of Dr. Tomerew, and, at the risk of being considered heretical, beg to recommend it to the earnest attention of the community. We had occasion some months ago to notice the erection of a grand Homoeopathic Hospital in London, from the subscriptions of those noblemen and gentlemen who had experienced the benefit of the system, and were anxious to see it extended to others, and it is fitting that we should have a corresponding institution in Calcutta. We have no professional knowledge of either Homoeopathy or Allopathy, and are as unable to explain the principles of the former, as the blind man mentioned in Scripture, was unable to explain to the unbelieving Pharisees how He opened his eyes, but as the object of His benevolence replied, "this one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see," so do we ground our recommendation on the successful results which we have ourselves witnessed of this mode of treatment. Even if we were to follow the usual rule, and believe only half we see, we should have sufficient evidence of its efficacy, in almost all the cases to which it has been applied within our knowledge; and, as a natural consequence, we do not believe one tithe of what we hear against it. It is not pretended that Homoeopathy will cure all diseases in all stages, and thus bestow the gift of immortality on the human family; it is enough, that its simple process has been triumphantly efficacious in the removal of many diseases, when they had been previously pronounced all but incurable, to establish the necessity of a close and fair investigation of its merits and its results. We are fully aware, that it has encountered the severest opposition from those who have been accustomed to the allopathic system throughout their professional career, and, so far as this opposition can be attributed to a firm and conscientious adherence to what they consider the soundest principles of medical science, it is entitled to respect. But it is quite possible to carry this feeling so far that it degenerates into a strong personal attachment to preconceived opinions, and an unwillingness to acknowledge that they were not altogether correct. Bigotry is not confined to religious opinions. There may be medical bigotry—perhaps we may dignify it with the name of incredulity—as there is also legal bigotry. But we cannot but consider it the bounden duty of every medical practitioner who demands the con-

fidence of his patients, to prove his title to it by a calm and unbiased investigation of the merits, and, above all, the results of a medical system, different from his own, which is stated on unquestionable evidence to have been efficacious in relieving pain and removing disease. The science of medicine has been progressive in Europe for three centuries, and it is only through investigation, observation, and experience, that it has attained its present eminence;—there may be other modes of cure than those which are dreamt of in the present philosophy of the profession, equally, if not more efficacious, and it behoves those who are entrusted with the health and lives of their fellow creatures to use the utmost diligence in ascertaining, whether the Homoeopathic system of treatment may not come within this category. Homoeopathy has of late made considerable progress in the confidence of the public in Calcutta; but it is worthy of especial remark that there is not a single case in which those who are its advocates have not been converted to it through a conviction of its efficacy, by a personal experience of its happy effects, either on themselves or their friends. To deery it without examination, would be to act in the spirit of those who sent Galileo to the dungeons of the Inquisition for asserting that which at the time appeared to be an astronomical paradox. We trust Dr. Tomerew will meet with such encouragement as to be able fully to establish the Hospital—that the mode of treatment pursued by him, and its results will be impartially studied by the members of the faculty—and that the blessings it has conferred on our own friends and relatives may be extended to others.

THE COLLECTORS IN BEHALF.—A Circular Order just issued by the Board of Revenue, embodies an Extract from a letter of the Government of Bengal, which indicts great damage on the Collectors in the Lower Provinces than all the attacks which have appeared in all the newspapers for the last four years. We publish it among our Selections. The Bengal Government has long been suspected of being fast asleep, but this document will convince the public officers under its control, that it is wide awake to the inefficiency of the administration of these provinces. Looking at the subject in another point of view, we cannot but commend the courage which is exhibited by the publication of such a representation of the state and condition of one branch of the public service on the very eve of the Parliamentary Committee. There is always hope when we find the optimism of our Calcutta Downing Street on the wane. Every one who has an opportunity of comparing the Collectorate offices of the North West Provinces with those of Bengal and Behar, has been made aware of the lamentable contrast which they present. As the Collectors in both divisions belong to the same service, have been educated in the same principles and associations, and one with another, may be said to possess the same amount of official talent, the discrepancy is to be ascribed entirely to the difference of the system which prevails in the two divisions of the Presidency. The Collectors and Magistrates of districts are the mainstay of the North West administration, and it is chiefly through their exertions and those of their subordinates, who not under their eye and tuition, that the Government has risen into such high repute. They are trained up with the greatest care and attention, watched over with anxiety, encouraged with heartiness, and censured with great, but discriminate se-

verity. They are made to feel themselves constantly under the eye of a strict though generous task master, and there is a feeling of professional pride growing out of the reputation of the Government to which they belong, which acts as a constant stimulus to exertion. It has been said, that the Lieutenant Governor never comments to the transmission of a good Collector into an indifferent Judge without a sigh—the pay of both posts is nearly, and ought to be altogether, equal. Down here, the system is altogether different. A Collectorate is nothing more than the half way step between a Magistracy and a Civil Judgeship. It is given without the remotest reference to merit, and upon the strictest rule of seniority, the smallest deviation from which produces a strong remonstrance, and a general feeling of dissatisfaction among all those who are in a position to dread a similar suppression. The spring of exertion is thus wanting; at the same time, the relationship which subsists between the Government of Bengal and its Collectors is not, and under existing circumstances, cannot be, that of close and intimate character, which would give life and animation to the service. The Government knows little if any thing of them individually; they know Government only from the weight of its censure and the distribution of its patronage. It is from this, combined perhaps with other causes, that the Collectors, and, indeed, the service generally, have imbibed the opinion that the great object of their official lives is to keep so clearly within the strict letter of their duty as to avoid blame. The system of promotion is, moreover, essentially vicious. A Civilian after some seven or eight years becomes a Magistrate, and his time is exclusively devoted to police duties. At the end of seven or eight years more, he is promoted to a Collectorate, and there he has all the duties of his new office to learn. As soon as he has made himself master of them, he is promoted to the office of a Civil Judge, and begins studying the Civil law. After five or six years on the bench, he is promoted to a Revenue Commissionership, and has all his fiscal knowledge to brush up, and then, he takes his final degree in the Sudder Court, where he has the Civil and Criminal proceedings of the lower Courts to revise and control. Is it therefore any matter of surprise that a public officer, in each of the four higher stages of Collector, Civil Judge, Revenue Commissioner, and Judge of Appeal, should be awkward and inefficient for some time after he has entered on its duties? Is it any wonder that the Government of Bengal should have occasion to say, as in this Circular, that in reference to Settlement duties, "the Collector appears to be a mere cypher, and that the only two active parties are the Deputy Collector below him and the Commissioner above him"—that "according to the system which is allowed to exist in Bengal, the Collector makes himself a fixture at his Cutchery, and there so far as original business is concerned, employs himself exclusively in the easiest and most mechanical parts of Collectorate duty, while all original work of any difficulty or requiring any trouble and revenue knowledge to do it, is made over to his native Deputy Collector"—that "it is unreasonable to expect a Collector to be competent to review a settlement, if he does not know what a settlement is, or how it is to be made"—that "it cannot be right, that the officer who has to review all the settlements made in his district, to administer every ward's estate, and to manage every estate that comes under his own immediate administration, should have no personal acquaintance

with any part of his District out of sight of his own house, should never have any direct or intimate relations with ryot or talukdar, or any practical knowledge of the rates, tenure and common agricultural customs of his district."—As a remedy for this state of things the Government of Bengal ordains that the Collectors shall spend two or three months in travelling through their districts, so as to complete the circuit once every three years. This is an admirable device, but it is not a sufficient remedy for the evils of the system "which has been allowed to exist." The disease is deeper seated, and requires the hand of Parliament. It is the master's eye, says our old Saxon proverb, that makes the fat horse, and this is applicable with the strictest propriety to the Government of Bengal. Whatever the Secretary says in reference to the Collectors of Bengal may be applied with still greater truth to the Governor of Bengal. He is likewise President of the Council of India, and cannot therefore stir from the Council Chamber. He casts anchor at Calcutta, as soon as he is appointed to his post, and pays out just cable enough to enable him to move between Barrackpore and the metropolis. But, is it not unreasonable that the officer at the head of the Administration to whom the final disposal of all questions is reserved, should have no personal acquaintance with any part of his district out of sight of his own House? If it is expected that the Collectors, and the Magistrates and the Judges and the Revenue Commissioners shall do their duty, and reflect credit on the administration, and give satisfaction to the people, we must have a separate Governor of our own, who shall "make a point of visiting some of his Khass estates every season, so as to complete the circuit of his province once every two or three years."

**BRITISH INDIA ASSOCIATION.**—The *Citizen* of the 18th instant informs us, that a meeting of the most wealthy and influential native gentlemen of Calcutta was held on the 29th of last month, when it was resolved that "A Society be formed for a period of not less than three years under the denomination of the British Indian Association, and that the object of the Association shall be to promote the improvement and efficiency of the British Indian Government by every legitimate means in its power, and thereby to advance the common interests of Great Britain and India and ameliorate the condition of the native inhabitants of the subject territory." The rules have been drawn up with the most elaborate care, and amount to no fewer than 47. Looking at the rapid extinction of all similar Associations in times past, and remembering, as we do, how they have one and all gone out without having done the smallest good to the country,—but rather injury by attaching ridicule to every idea of native philanthropy,—we feel certain that the success of the present effort must depend, not on the *Forty-seven* rules which have been framed for the management of the proceedings, but on the public spirit, the promptitude and the unanimity of some half dozen of its members. The object of the Association is of course to represent the interests of India in the approaching debates regarding the future Government of India, and to point out the defects of our present administration with a view to their being remedied. It is our firm belief that the Government of India, as a Government, is earnestly and conscientiously desirous of doing its duty to the fullest extent by the people of India,—and in this age of civilization, the

duties of the foremost of civilized nations cannot be light—and we are certain, that the representations of those who have had great opportunities, from their constant intercourse with their fellow countrymen, of forming a correct estimate of the working of our system of administration, will be received not merely with respect, but also with delight, if they should appear worthy of confidence. From the members of this Association the Parliament will expect an impartial, unbiased, and disinterested report of the influence of our institutions on the public welfare of the country. The chief members of the present Association have moreover received all the advantages of an English education, and they use our tongue in preference to their own tongue, and the Committee of the House of Commons will consider the documents which may be presented by it as an index of the effect of the last twenty-five years of English instruction in correcting and elevating the views of the Native gentry. The members of the association may rest assured that if there should appear in their statements any of that selfishness which too often characterizes Natives of wealth in this country, it will proportionately injure their object. They must also be careful to act with discretion. If they fancy, that because they have got up a grand Association with many names of note, and a good subscription list, it is their business to overhaul and oppose every measure which has been designed by Government for the good of the country, and should manifest a disposition which wears the appearance of being factious—there are some of our friends in the Association who will clearly understand to what we allude—then they will fail to obtain confidence or influence, and will lose the opportunity of benefiting the country which now opens before them. We think they have acted wisely in having determined to appoint an Agent to act for them in London, and in determining to reward his services liberally. We hope their choice will be judicious, and that their representative will act with eminent fidelity and diligence. But they must not forget that his success will depend, not merely on the zeal which he may manifest in carrying out their instructions, but also on the wisdom and judgment which those instructions manifest. They must keep clear of all Zemindari Associations; they must not forget that the misery and degradation of the peasantry in Bengal are generally, and we believe, justly, attributed to the rapacity of the landholders, who—with some exceptions—have failed to act towards their tenants with the same liberality which the British Government manifested towards them sixty years ago, at the time of the perpetual settlement. They must not allow themselves to be identified with those enlightened and liberal Hindoos who went up to Parliament to entreat permission to burn Widows alive, or with those who are now demanding the subversion of Liberty of Conscience, and the revival of the persecuting laws of the Hindu Shastras. If the people of England are once led to confound this new British Indian Association with the parties or the objects we have thus named, all their representations will be received with mistrust, if not with aversion.

One thing is deserving of especial notice. There are to be three kinds of Members, the Ordinary, the Honorary, and the Corresponding members. The Ordinary members will consist of such native gentlemen as contribute to the funds of the association, the sum of 50 Rs. or more, annually, payable in advance. The Honorary members "of persons of

distinction, influence and ability, whose connection with the association may be deemed desirable." But why do not these persons of distinction, influence, and ability contribute the small sum of Four Rupees, two annas, eight pie a month to the Institution? Is it a fact, as we have heard from a most authentic source, that the Honorary Members are to consist of those Muharras and Baboos who never pay the sum which they subscribe, and who could not become Members of this Institution, simply because the payment of subscriptions is to be required in advance?

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA.**—Fourteen years ago we recorded in this journal a proposal for the establishment of a Joint Stock Company in Calcutta to promote emigration from this country to South Australia. That district had been raised into a "British Province" by an Act of Parliament passed in 1834, amidst fierce opposition, and it was imagined, among other crude ideas, that it might be successfully cultivated by the importation of natives from India. The project of this Calcutta Company dropped through, as such projects always do in India, but the colony continued for a time to flourish, and in 1839, its revenue had increased to £17,000 a year, while the amount paid for lands within one twelvemonth, amounted to no less than £131,000. The mismanagement, however, which would appear to be inseparable from the foundation of an English Colony, and the determined hostility of a portion of the English press, headed by the *Times*, injured its prosperity, and the colonists of Struyn, who had exhibited a most unworthy spirit of jealousy and bitterness at the creation of the new Province, prophesied its speedy downfall. The diatribes of the English Press of course diminished the scale of immigration, and so depressed did the fortunes of the colony appear, that the author of an account of South Australia called the "Land of Promise," expressed to us personally his fear that the final ruin of the colony was at hand. Even then, however, the pictures which he drew of the resources of the country, and the beauty of its climate, were so encouraging, as to lead us to express a confidence in its future destinies which subsequent events have fully justified. The spirit of the day has changed. No journalist now discourages colonization; glimpses have been obtained of mineral treasures, surpassing those of the Cornwall mines, and the Colony, which in 1839 was on the brink of ruin, and the Government of which was "shaken to the centre" by the quarrels of two officials, listened in September 1851 to the first speech from the Governor to its own Constitutional Assembly. This body, a portion of which is still nominally by the Crown, is called the Legislative Council, but it is vested with the power of modelling its own elective system, and of dividing its authority with a second Chamber at its own discretion. The speech of the Governor is reprinted in the *Englishman* of the 18th instant. It was read, not spoken, and resembles the messages of the American Presidents, inasmuch as it contains in itself a complete resume of the political, financial, and social position of the Colony. It is not, however, so lengthy as those documents, and is distinguished by a vigour of tone which is often wanting in the Presidential messages. After a short notice of the more popular character which the Council has assumed, and a remark on the advisability of allowing the constitution a fair trial, before any theoretical improvements are introduced, the speech passes on to the statistics of the Colony, which we have thrown into

this tabular form. The figures given all refer to the date of 31st December 1850.

Population, ... ..	68,700
Value of imports, ... ..	£287,423
Value of exports, ... ..	£271,848
Tonnage outwards and inwards, ... ..	168,408 tons.
Export of wool, ... ..	3,250,232 lbs.
Extent of enclosed land, ... ..	17,4184 acres.
Copper ore, ... ..	175,680 cwt.
Export of copper, ... ..	44,594 cwt.
Squatters land 15,317 square miles.	

The total revenue which in 1839, as above-mentioned, was only 17,000*l.* a year, is now 178,720*l.* of which 102,523*l.* is furnished by the Customs, and 57,000*l.* by the duties on wine, spirits, and tobacco. The general expenditure was 136,304*l.*, leaving a clear surplus of more than 10,000*l.* or one-fourth of the whole amount, in favour of the Colony. The whole of this revenue, with the exception of 13,000*l.* to be paid to the Queen, i. e. we believe, to certain of the officials appointed from home, is at the disposal of the Legislative Council. There is, indeed, another sum, produced by the sale of lands, which in 1850 amounted to 111,000*l.*, and this is not under their control, but expended at the discretion of the Colonial Office, principally for the purposes of emigration. The Governor is, however, bound to lay on the table an account of the manner in which this fund is disbursed, and it is evident that the Colonists intend ere long to have that income also at their own disposal. The number of Schools in the Colony is 115, or as nearly as possible, one for every 500 of the population, which is undoubtedly sufficient when it is considered that the proportion of full grown immigrants is so much larger than in any other country. The places of worship are 102, and in alluding to this subject Sir H. Young had a somewhat delicate task to perform. He gets over it, however, gracefully enough:—

"Priority is due to the question of the continuance of aid from the Public Treasury to the erection of Christian Churches, and to the support of Christian Ministers. The precedence belongs to it, not only because of its intrinsic importance, but also on account of its being but the proposed renewal of an enactment which an experience of three years, terminated on the 31st March last, was prescribed by law; and lastly, because the question would not now be in dispute, had not the former Council deferred its assent to the then near approach of that more popular Legislature which is now assembled."

The frugal maximum of 150*l.* for churches, and 20*l.* for stipend, which may be received in either case only conditionally on private contribution, at least of an equal amount, seems to me to insure as large an infusion of the voluntary principle into the ecclesiastical system of all civilised countries as the present circumstances of the colonies can bear; but it requires for you if you see fit, to affirm the principle *hitherto* adopted, or to modify its application.

There can be no doubt that, whatever be the measures adopted, the most important task, and as will be evident only by a desire to establish the independence and welfare of the community on the only sure foundation, by securing the diffusion among all its members of a knowledge of the sacred truths of Christianity, and a sense of the responsibilities they impose."

This means, practically, "Do as you like," and as the elections show a result of eleven to five against a State Church, there is no room to doubt, that the Colonists will follow the example of America rather than of England, and adopt the principle of Universal education instead of that of an Established Church. It appears almost certain from the tendency of circumstances, that there will be no State religion whatever among the young Anglo-Saxon empires which are now rising up. We have no space to touch on the remaining topics of the speech, but we notice a startling proposition for borrowing money on the security of the public revenue, to the extent of half a million sterling, or four years income, with the intention

of devoting the sums thus raised to the construction of Railways. The speech concludes with this noble sentence:—"May my children and yours, whose future lot in life is probably fixed in the place of their nativity, ever perceive that we recognise as the essential vitality of our political and social existence, a close conformity with the lofty and disinterested public spirit which is honoured in the Parent State."

**CHINA.**—We have received intelligence from China by the regular route down to the 30th October, but the papers contain no allusion to the abdication of the Manchoo Dynasty, lately reported from Darjeeling, beyond the somewhat enigmatical sentence that "in Peking treason lurks around the throne." We do not, however, as yet consider the report disproved, for political news is long in working its way from Peking to Canton, and several paragraphs in the papers now received, appear to give some color to the rumour. Whether Tien-ten be himself in the Southern Provinces or not, the rebellion which bears his name is unquestionably making rapid progress, and perhaps the best evidence of its increasing strength is the fact, that the *Pekin Gazette*—a sort of Chinese *Monitor*—has ceased to report victories gained over Tien-ten's followers. Since the date of the last Mail, the Tartar forces had been defeated in a great battle, and the rebels had made themselves masters of another city, beheading numbers who refused to abandon their allegiance to the Manchoo Dynasty. See, the only General apparently in the field, having been back from a general engagement in expectation of reinforcements from Canton, but his own troops appear inclined to mutiny, and a detachment of Two thousand men ordered up from the Province of Tung-kwan absolutely refused to move, unless they received a large amount of pay in advance, and Su was compelled to yield to the demand.

Whether the Lama's version of the story be at present correct, or otherwise, the Empire certainly exhibits every symptom of breaking up.—The northern coast, in particular, swarms with freebooters, whom the Government is utterly unable to suppress, while the recent execution of eighteen Mandarins in Peking itself, for a plot to assassinate the Emperor, has increased the dissatisfaction, the existence of which is revealed to the world in the Manchoo dynasty is a worn out Oriental despotism, and the conviction is forced upon us, that the European races are yet destined to play in the great Empire of Eastern Asia the part they are now playing in the South and West.

**THE CAPE.**—Mismanagement in the home authorities, disunion among the people, and inability at Head Quarters, seem to have conspired to work the ruin of this splendid Colony. Intelligence to the 4th October has been received in Calcutta, by way of Madras, and is of the most gloomy description. The ruin of an engagement, or skirmish, in which the Europeans had been defeated is confirmed, and in this and three other skirmishes, the British lost upwards of a hundred men killed, wounded, and missing, while the losses of the enemy, in proportion to their numbers, were totally insignificant. The local accounts are equally unimpeachable, and the conviction is forced upon us, that the European races are yet destined to play in the great Empire of Eastern Asia the part they are now playing in the South and West.







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The rapid progress of Homoeopathy in Calcutta, and its

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2nd. The Committee of Management will consist of four Members, elected for this purpose, and the Medical Attendant.

3rd. A responsible Treasurer will be appointed to take charge of the funds.

4th. The Oriental Bank has been selected for this purpose.

5th. A quarterly Report will be published, showing the treatment of the patients and the management of the funds.

6th. The Institution will be divided into two departments: an Hospital for the treatment of acute diseases, and a Dispensary for chronic cases.

7th. Poor patients suffering from acute diseases, will be admitted free of charge, but a contribution will be required from the Government in the current affairs of the charity, the





















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## GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

REPOST OVERLAND MAIL PER P. AND O. CO.'S STEAMER "ORIENTAL," DUE FROM CALCUTTA.

NOTICE is hereby given, for general information, that the Mail for India, and the Intermediate Ports (Madras, Ceylon, Aden, Suez, Singapore, and Hongkong), intended for transmission by the Peninsular and Oriental Company's Steamers, "Oriental" and "India," will be closed at this Office, on Saturday, 7th inst. and that an after packet will be sent by the steamer "Oriental" on Monday, 9th inst. 11 A.M. It is requested to ensure its arrival at Hongkong, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Oriental can be received after 9 P.M. of that date.

R. BURLTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, the 24th November, 1851.

REPOST OVERLAND MAIL VIA ROMANY.  
THE Government of Bombay have appointed the 3d of the ensuing month of January for the departure of the next steamer therefrom, with a Mail for Europe. Notice accordingly is hereby given, for general information, that the latest safe date for the transmission of letters, papers, and all other articles, which may be received at the General Post Office, is the 11th inst. 11 A.M. It is requested to ensure its arrival at Hongkong, in time to reach the steamer. The public are particularly requested to observe that no letters for the Oriental can be received after 9 P.M. of that date.

J. R. BURLTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Genl. Post Office, the 24th November, 1851.

NOTICE.—The General Post Office will be removed on the 3d of January, to No. 16, Mangoe Lane, during the repairs of the present premises.

J. R. BURLTON BENNETT,  
Deputy Post Master General in Charge.  
Calcutta, General Post Office, }  
The 24th November, 1851. }

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The Editor of the *Friend of India* begs to acknowledge the following Donation:—  
From Major A. Kaye, Esq., Co. R. 53-14 As. for Mrs. Brett.

OVERLAND SUMMARY.—The Express from Bombay with the Mail of the 24th October arrived in Calcutta on the evening of Tuesday the 21st instant, after a long passage of thirty-nine days. The intelligence of the fortnight is almost destitute of interest. Kosuth, the Hungarian Dictator, arrived at Southampton on the 23d Oct. where he was received by the Mayor and Corporation, and entertained at a public banquet. The Austrian Government, enraged at the popularity of the "traitor," has ordered its Envoy to demand his passports should Kosuth receive an audience of the Foreign Secretary. The Queen has completed her visit to Lancashire, but her reception at Liverpool was spoiled by the rain, which, with true English perseverance, poured in torrents during the entire day. The subsequent visit to Manchester in the same tour was unmarked by any peculiarity worthy of notice, the Cotton Lords viewing with "the Territorial Lords" in their demonstrations of loyalty. The Crystal Palace was definitively closed to the public on the 11th day of October, and on the 15th, the final ceremony was performed. The only persons present were the Royal Commissioners, the Exhibitors and the Jurymen. Lord Canning, as one of the Commissioners, presented an address to Prince Albert, detailing the system upon which the prizes had been awarded, which may be briefly summed up in the fact that the smaller or prize medals, of which 2918 were distributed, were bestowed wherever a certain degree of excellence, either in beauty, utility, or cheapness had been attained, and the larger medals, the number of which was 170, were given only for articles presenting some important novelty either in material, manufacture, or design. His Royal Highness, the Prince, then read a suitable royal speech, the ceremony closed with an admirable thank-

giving by the Bishop of London. In the distribution of the great medals England obtains 77, France 50, Prussia 7, the United States 6, Switzerland 7, Tuscany 2, and Holland, Russia, Rome, Egypt, Spain, Tunis, Turkey, and India only one, but the award, though it has, as might have been expected, excited no sensation of importance, is generally considered as fair as circumstances would permit. We have omitted several extracts of interest in order to make room for the list of Indian prizeholders, who, with three exceptions, are exhibitors of raw produce. Both the Kishnagur prizes, and those produced in the Madras pottery, have obtained prizes, and Captain Smith's machine for weighing coin has been similarly rewarded.

The only deaths of importance during the month, have been those of the Duchess of Anjou, and the well known Manuel Comte, the Prince of Peace, who died in Paris in the 57th year of his age.

The French President has taken another step in his path towards re-election. He has expressed his intention of inserting in his annual "message," a clause utterly condemnatory of the recent law which disfranchises three millions of electors. The Ministry, have, in consequence, resigned en-masse, and France remains for the time without a responsible Government. This measure is regarded by the journalists of Paris as equivalent to a determination on the part of the President to abandon the "cause of order," and rely upon the Republican portion of the nation. The Spanish Government has conferred the highest distinctions in its power upon the defenders of Cuba.

The Mail brings us no fresh information with respect to the Egyptian question, except the following note addressed from the Foreign Office to the Chairman of the P. and O. Company:—

"Sir,—I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. expressing on behalf of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, the apprehensions entertained by that association lest the issue of the discussions between the P. and O. and the P. and O. should have any effect on the business of the P. and O. through Egypt."

"I am to state to you in reply, for the information of the Company, that whatever questions of etiquette and form may have arisen between the Sultan and Abbas Pasha in regard to the construction of a railway between Alexandria and Cairo, or in regard to the introduction of the telegraph into Egypt, Viscount Palmerston entertains no apprehension that the construction of the railway will be stopped, or that the local Government of Egypt will be deprived of the means of maintaining order in that province."

"I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
H. U. ADDINGTON."

We take this opportunity of informing the Bombay Government that the P. and O. Company have here only one inconvertible tub, the *Henriette*, and it is very annoying that another tub like the *Zenobia* should be sent for the Mails on the other side in the same voyage. Whenever the *Henriette* is employed on this side, the *Force* should be employed on the other.

THE LATE MR. REDDIE.—It is with feelings of no common regret that we record the death of Mr. Reddie, the First Judge of the Small Cause Court, from a sharp attack of Cholera.

It is many years since any individual in Calcutta has descended to the tomb amidst such deep and universal regret, among all classes of society the high and the low, the rich and the poor. He came out to India about three years ago, after having filled the office of Chief Justice of St. Lucia, from which he was ejected by the Colonial office to gratify the wishes of the Governor. This circumstance for a time created an unfavorable impression, in some circles, but he speedily lived down all these prejudices, and soon succeeded in obtaining the universal confidence of society. On the remodelling of the Small Cause Court, he was appointed to the office of First Judge. The Court had at the time, from various causes, chiefly from the vice of its organization, fallen into great disrepute with the public in general, and he entered upon his duties with the resolution to spare no labor or pains to raise it to general estimation, by rendering it a real blessing to the city. He fully appreciated the importance of the responsibility which was thus thrown on him, and the hopes which his elevation had inspired; but the expectations even of the most sanguine were outstripped. By the most unwearied attention to business, greatly, we fear, to the detriment of his own health, he rapidly raised this Court to the highest reputation, and thus justified the wisdom of Government in enlarging the sphere of its jurisdiction, and placing him at the head of it. The clearness and justice of his decisions gave general satisfaction to the community, while his judicial affability, and the interest he manifested in all the cases brought before him, won the esteem and attachment of all parties. We can scarcely remember an instance in this country in which the exertions of one individual have produced so decisive and rapid an improvement in a public institution, and so speedily drawn the admiration of his fellow townsmen to his own person. The cases in which the soundness of his judgments was brought into question, by a reference to the Supreme Court, were merely those in which a diversity of opinion might be fairly entertained without any imputation on the judge's knowledge of the judge. In this country, it too often happens that an appeal to a higher tribunal is considered, and resented as a kind of personal reflection on the party appealed from. Mr. Reddie, however, was above all such littlenesses; no man has ever more cheerfully referred matters in which he differed from his legal brethren, to the arbitration of a higher tribunal. In general society he was a universal favorite. There was a glow and a freshness in his conversation, which formed a most agreeable contrast to the dull solemnity, and the chilling officiality of Calcutta society in general, though not in particular. At the same time, the warmth and cordiality of his feelings, combined with the frankness of his manners, endeared him in no common degree to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and he has left a void both in society and on the bench which will not be readily filled up. We now read with a melancholy interest the last letter we ever received from him, written only five days before he was attacked by that fatal disease, in which he intimated to us that his hopes of succeeding Mr. Bethune had been disappoint-

ed by the determination of the Ministry to appoint no one then in India. The letter gives a brief sketch of his former career and an extract from it may not be uninteresting also to our readers:—

"I too may reckon myself a Peelite. I am not far off being a Tory-Radical. A Tory in substance; and a Radical in many other respects. I have been for some time in the ship with the Whig party, from Frank Hurden downwards, threw me into their society, and whilst delightfully intimate with many of them, I still was considered a "radical Tory," and the only dot of that kind attached to the same intimacy from 1826 till 1842; then came Mauritius till 1850; then during 1850 and 30 my old intimacy was renewed with them all, although they were then divided; and then, till 1847 I was an ally in the West Indies, losing time, money and vigour for the thankless Colonial office."

#### THE NEW ACT AND SCHEDULES B. AND D.

The Act passed in 1853 for continuing the Government of India in the East India Company, gave the Court of Directors power and authority to disallow any Act passed by the Legislative Council of India; but this power has not been exercised during the seventeen years which have since elapsed. About a fortnight ago, however, on the 21st of November last, a dispatch was read from the Court of Directors, dated on the 3rd of September, directing the immediate repeal of so much of the 3d Section of Act No. V. of this year as directed the payment of the sums named in Schedules B. and D. An Act was accordingly passed immediately on the subject. We shall briefly explain the cause of so unusual a proceeding.

The reader needs scarcely to be informed that a Committee of the House of Commons was appointed last year to investigate the nature and extent of the defalcations in Sir Thomas Turton's office, and the liability of the Government of India to make them good. The various sums thus lost, were classified, according to their different character, under six Schedules, marked from A. to F. These Schedules were minutely investigated by the Parliamentary Committee, whose decision on the subject of Schedules B. and D. is contained in the following sentence, which we borrow from the *Illustrated London News*:

"Besides these, there were other deficiencies, respectively amounting to about 5,000*l.* and 4,300*l.*, of which one was due on account of estates administered by Sir Thomas Turton, either under the will of testators, or otherwise, not under the statute; and the other arose upon estates of natives of India, for which he was accountable, as administrator by account. As regards these two sums, they came into the hands of the Registrar by the act of the parties, and it appears to your Committee to be obvious, that no question, as to the liability of the public to indemnify the latter, on any legal grounds, they are therefore left by your Committee out of further consideration."

This decision was formed, not by the Court of Directors, who were anxious to resist all payment of Sir Thomas Turton's defalcations, but by the Committee of the House of Commons appointed with the view of adding the Company with as large a portion of these repayments as possible. The decision was understood to be a final disposal of the question, and was sent out to the Legislative Council to guide them in framing the Act. Of his "own free will and mere motion," did the late Mr. Bethune insert in the Act the two Schedules B. and D. which the House of Commons had repudiated, and, strange to say, his legislative colleagues passed the Act at once. The most favorable view which can be taken of the case is, that they never read their own Act with any care, or compared it with the decision of the House of Commons. It was not to be expected that the Court of Directors would allow this—we cannot find an adjective sufficiently strong, and at the same time respectful—disregard of their orders and of the Parliamentary

voto, by the Council of India, to pass without notice; and so they have ordered the immediate passing of an Act, to amend Act V. of 1851, that is to repudiate the payment of the sums mentioned in the two schedules.

**NEWSPAPER POSTAGE.**—This subject, so important to the whole European community in India, has just been brought again under notice in the columns of two of our contemporaries. The *Calcutta Christian Advocate* quotes a letter from a correspondent of the *London Athenaeum* in the North West Provinces, who states that the whole of the Bengal Presidency are at present taxed at Bombay, with 4*d.* on the lightest covers, 6*d.* on the larger sheets, and even 1*s.* on the *Illustrated London News*; and other papers of that size. He adds: "English literature is as the air we breathe—we have it, or die intellectually in this mental and moral desert. Say, then, a word or two for us also, when next you touch on the topic of postage on literature. I state what is within the scope of a pretty extensive knowledge of the question, when I assert that, were the postage reduced to a reasonable rate, four English papers would be subscribed for, where there is but one now." Strange to say, the Post Office Commissioners have recommended that this postage which is already so heavy, and which prevents the circulation of English journals from being quadrupled, should be still further increased. The result of their recommendation is already beginning to show itself. The *Bombay Times* states that he has been informed by a local news agent, that orders are now beginning to reach him to stop the transmission of English newspapers into the interior, as soon as the recommendations of the Post Office Commissioners can come into effect. Our Western contemporaries add, "the views of the Post Office Commissioners on these matters are behind the spirit of the age—the Governor General has not been long enough expatriated to have lost sight of the state of opinion on such subjects at home."

Such representations will, we sincerely trust, assist in procuring us a favorable determination of the question now under discussion relative to the postage of newspapers in India. With the sincerest desire to entertain all possible esteem for the Post Office Commissioners, whose motives we conscientiously respect, we cannot avoid the conviction, that when they determine to propose that no alteration should be made in the rates of newspaper postage, though universally felt to be oppressive—except that England should be made heavier in regard to all English newspapers, they manifested far more of chivalrous courage than of wisdom. We all expected some relaxation of the heavy yoke of postage from the Commissioners when they undertook to consider the question of postal reform, but they have replied to us in the same spirit in which King Jacobus replied to the children of Israel. *Yide I. Kings, Chapter XII., verse 14.* It appears to us unaccountable, how three wise men, in the middle of the nineteenth century, could deliberately sit down and propose that the only change to be made in the post office charge on newspapers, should be one of which the natural and obvious result must be to curtail and almost extinguish the circulation of the journals of our own country in India, thus arraying against their plans upon grounds of just indignation, the whole press of India, and the far more powerful press of England. None of the members of Government can of course expect that the exclusion of the public journals from all share

in the proposed reduction of postage, is to be permanent, or that it will last two years, whatever may be the calculations on which it is based. We await Lord Dalhousie's mode of dealing with the subject with much interest, yet without any feeling of apprehension. His Lordship will probably at once cancel the proposal of the Commissioners, and recommend to the Court the substitution of an anna postage; but if our malignant star should happen to be in the ascendant, and he should not deem it advisable to reject the opinion so earnestly expressed in the Report against a reduction in the present rates, he will feel no surprise if the Press should move heaven and earth to secure the desired consummation during the ensuing discussions—and upon precisely the same grounds on which the Court of Directors will strain every nerve to obtain another lease of the Government of India—self interest. What but the most contemptible opinion could his Lordship form of the journals of this country, if he could suppose for a moment that they were prepared to submit to so fatal an exclusion without putting forth all their strength and influence? Against a unanimous press, a Government is next to powerless.

**THE ANNUITY FUND.**—The Annuity Fund projected about eighteen months ago, has met with such indifferent support, that it is now proposed to dissolve it, and return the subscriptions to its members. The Editor of the *Calcutta Christian Advocate*, to whom this Fund may be said to owe its existence, and whose exertions have been as unspared as they are meritorious, in alluding to the subject last Saturday, stated that on its commencement, it received—with one exception—the cordial approbation of the public journals of this Presidency. The allusion which is here made to the *Calcutta Christian Advocate*, which did not welcome it with cordiality, we believe, to ourselves, for although we were fully prepared to rejoice in the establishment of an Annuity Fund open to the public, and applauded the zeal and spirit which the projectors of this Fund had manifested, still we had many misgivings regarding its success. Having, moreover, been employed for several years in studying the subject, and watching the progress of events in Calcutta, we felt a strong persuasion, that there was another course which the public spirited originators of the Fund should have pursued, in the first instance, before they resorted to the alternative of an independent institution. Such a Fund, unless supported by such vigor and unanimity as the very outset, has to be able to accumulate an adequate capital, before the occurrence of casualties and claims, runs every risk of perishing in its cradle. Its difficulties are those of its infancy, and they arise from this circumstance, that the public is indisposed to subscribe to an establishment, which does not inspire confidence by the strength of its resources; at the same time that its resources can possess no such vigor, till the public has largely subscribed to it. To come to the point; at this very time, there was in existence in Calcutta a kindred institution, established nearly thirty years before, which possessed a capital of two or three lakhs of Rupees, and a donation of 500 Rupees a month from Government; but which had been closed against the public for many years; and the operation of which was confined to the payment of existing pensioners. We felt satisfied that the original design of this institution might be carried out, and that its advantages might be thrown open to the public, without any injury to its present or prospective

ture incumbents; we felt equally satisfied that, unless this was done, it must eventually be deprived of the Government support, which was granted with the understanding that it should be an open and a living institution. We proposed, therefore, that the projectors of the new Family Annuity Fund should, in the first instance, make a vigorous effort to open the gate of this Institution to the public, and then strengthen its funds by the addition of their own resources; and that they should support any attempt to establish a new and a separate fund, until this effort had failed. Even those who were at the time most opposed to this proposal, will now, we think, be disposed to think that it was worth an experiment. As no effort was made to render the *Mariner's Widow's Fund* useful to the public, Government has withdrawn its donation, and the Fund itself is practically extinct, its functions being limited for the future to the payment of the interest of its capital among incumbents.—At the same time the existence of the new Annuity Fund can no longer be prolonged without an accession of subscribers, of which there appears at present little, if any chance. For want of a union of the two, both will soon cease to exist, and there will be little chance of establishing another Institution.

We are not in the habit of noticing any of the numerous attacks which are so constantly made on this journal, either in the columns of correspondence, or among the editorial remarks of the *Englishman*. Our own editorial opinions, are, of course, always open to animadversion, and if the remarks offered on them are discourteous, or if our motives are misrepresented, we submit to the chance of war; but it appears to us, that an Editor oversteps the latitude which is conceded to a public journal, when he allows an anonymous correspondent to attack a brother editor for his personal conduct in a matter totally unconnected with his editorial duties. We put it therefore to the Editor of the *Englishman*, whether he is not transgressing the courtesies of editorial intercourse, in allowing the insertion of letters like that of "An Englishman" which appeared on Monday week last, in which the Editor of this journal is charged individually, and not editorially, with having labored to deprive Two Hundred Widows and Orphans of the sum given to them by Government, and with having at length succeeded in inflicting on the "Widows and Children, a loss which will be insupportable." The Editor of the *Englishman* must be fully aware that any individual, who could be guilty of such flagrant misconduct, must be unfit for the intercourse of society; and we are unable to perceive upon what ground he allows the use of his columns for the publication of such foul aspersions upon the private character of an individual. We have always endeavored to treat him with the utmost personal and editorial courtesy, and we should be sorry to find that we had in any single instance failed to do so, even through inadvertence; we have, therefore, afforded him no provocation for an unprovoked attack. We need scarcely state, that there is not even the smallest portion of an infinitesimal grain of truth in the assercion of the *Englishman's* correspondent; the truth lies entirely in an opposite direction. If we could obtain permission to make public the correspondence which has passed on the subject of this fund in consequence of our anxiety to maintain it intact, and to prevent any diminution of the stipends of the present incumbents, even those who are accustomed to the spathy and indif-

ference of Calcutta Committees, would feel astonished at the incredible listlessness which the managers of that institution have manifested for the last three years, and which has ended in depriving them of the support of the state.

**THE RAIL IN BOMBAY AND IN BENGAL.**—It is no small advantage to the Railway enterprise on the Continent of India, that a beginning should have been simultaneously made at two Presidencies. We think it argues much wisdom and forethought in the Court of Directors thus to have sanctioned independent operations at the same time at Bombay and in Bengal; and it becomes us to improve the advantage presented by this double series of operations by comparing the difficulties which are encountered on both sides the peninsula, the mode in which they are overcome, the ratio of progress, and the scale of expenditure. We shall therefore avail ourselves of our position in the centre of the works here, to keep our Bombay contemporaries informed of the obstructions which are experienced from time to time from nature and from man, and the progress which we are making in spite of both, and we trust they will treat us in a spirit of the freest reciprocity.

The *Bombay Times* of the 22d November tells us that "the bridge at Marazion is in considerable progress, and that the public will now begin to comprehend the nature and extent of the nuisance to which their apprehension of the risks of Level crossings is likely to subject them. We would strongly recommend that the thing be subjected to the test of experiment before the construction of any other bridge be thought of." This is sound advice, and will not, we hope, be neglected. If we understand aright, there are two great thoroughfares which the Rail is to cross at Bombay, and the Government has the option of level crossings or bridges each of which has its recommendations and disadvantages; it would therefore be wise to try one for a given period on each line, that their respective results on the safety and the convenience of the public, in a country in which the carelessness of the natives is five times as great as that of the people of England, may be fully tested. We shall then be enabled to turn this experience to account in Bengal, and determine which plan will be most advisable for our own Rail.

The *Bombay Times* informs us, that their Railway operations are getting on with a smoothness and celerity almost unknown in India. Here, as they say after a difficult partition, we are getting on as well as can be expected. Considering all the impediments which arise from the passive resistance of circumstances, and the natural resistance of those official habits, and feelings, and prejudices which an enterprise like a Railway has to demolish, we may be said, on the whole, to have done well, likewise; but we shall do much better when we have had the benefit of one week of Lord Dalhousie's experience, energy, and decision. We are happy to state, that the contracts for the line from Pandooah to the Collicries, 81 miles, were confirmed at the close of last week. It was a question of time *versus* money, and time carried the day. In this country it has always been the practice from the days of Sullivan to the present year to sacrifice time in order to save money; we have now for the first time, and not unwisely, expended money to save time. This is no small reformation for the Railway to have effected within so short a period as two years, and we may henceforward look for-

ward with confidence to our "going a-head" like England and America. In the first section of about 40 miles from Howrah to Pandooah, the embankment has been thrown up, with the exception of some four or five miles, and it is now to be left for the next rains to settle. Meanwhile, the contractors are busy in burning their ballast, and not a day passes without the cheerful sight of boats laden with rails and sleepers, and redolent of crocoate, passing up the river. Mr. Turbulla, the Chief Engineer of the Railway Company, having assisted in settling the contracts for the second section of the line, has now proceeded with a competent staff to survey the line of road from the neighbourhood of Burdwan to Rajmahal.

To return to Bombay. Can the *Times* inform us what is the expense of the ground, that is, beyond the limits of the town,—here, as we stated, it is about 500£ a mile,—and what is the estimated cost of the works, independent of course, of the carriages.

**THE LEGAL AGE OF HINDOOS.**—We stated the week before last, that the minority of Hindoos ceased according to law at Eighteen. The *Calcutta Christian Advocate* maintained that it was Sixteen. By a mere inadvertence we omitted in our next issue to give the legal authority for our opinion, but we sent it in a private note to the Editor, who has returned to the subject and pointed out at once the cause of our mutual discrepancy. We referred to the legal age of natives who were proprietors of estates, paying rent to Government, and which had been fixed by the Company's regulations. Our contemporary on the other hand had an eye to the legal age established by Hindoo law. We were therefore both in the right. The question is one of great importance in connection with the subject to which it now applies, and our contemporary has done good service by his clear exposition of it. It appears that the British Government has deemed it right to fix the age of eighteen, as the period at which a native, who has been a minor, shall obtain the management of his estate, and enter upon the responsibility of paying the public revenue assessed on it. But this is a specific provision for a specific object, and does not affect the Hindoo general law on the great question of minority. The Courts, as it appears, are in the habit of enforcing the provisions both of our own code and of the Hindoo law. In reference to unseised estates, they consider the proprietor as under age, till he is Eighteen, and bring him within all the incidents of minority. In reference to all the other relations of society he is deemed of full age on attaining his Sixteenth year, at which period he is released from that state of pupillage which the Hindoo law has imposed on him, and entirely emancipated from all paternal control. In every case in which the Hindoos have endeavored to obstruct the admission of any one of their children into a Christian community, they have always brought forward the allegation that he was under Sixteen, and they have endeavored to establish this fact by a reference to the horoscopes. If it is ascertained, however, that the youth was a day beyond that age, he was deemed, even by them, as the uncontrolled master of his own actions.

But—in the new marriage Act passed by Parliament, and which is applicable equally to European and to Native Christians, it is ordained that a father shall have power absolutely to forbid the marriage of his son, until he attains the age of Twenty-one; and no Court can give any relief from this paternal caveat, and, moreover, that the Legislative Council in

India shall not be at liberty to make any alteration whatever in the Act. The consequence of this enactment is, that if a Native youth joins a Christian Church after he has become his own master, say a few months after the age of sixteen, his heathen parent may prevent his marriage for five years, by simply entering his protest against it. This absurdity would never have disgraced the Act of Parliament if the Legislative Council here had not thought fit to withhold their proceedings in reference to this enactment from the public. If the Act sent out for their opinion had been published with their "emendations," as all their other proceedings are published, the anomaly would have been at once pointed out and remedied. As the matter now stands, it will be necessary for the Government of India to go up to Parliament and request an Act to amend the Act, and to ordain that the authority of a parent to enter a caveat against the intended marriage of his son, shall extend only to the period during which the parent is by law invested with power over him.

Another question remains to be considered; when the father happens to be a Native Christian, is the period of legal minority, to be sixteen, eighteen, or twenty-one? There are also other questions on the subject of divorce and other points which require a legislative decision. There will, in fact, be no end of work for a Legislative Member of Council, when we are so fortunate as to obtain one, who is at liberty to give his whole mind up to the duties of his office.

**INDIAN TEAS IN ENGLAND.**—In Mr. Fox-tune's pamphlet, or report upon the Tea Plantations of Kumaon, he evidently relies for the profits ultimately obtained from them upon the market which may be created in India itself, but we are happy to perceive that there is every probability of the Kumaon teas taking a high place in the English market also. At the first sale of the Himalaya teas in London, the whole consignment was taken at the best market rates, and this in the teeth of the prejudice which in England connects Tea so indissolubly with China. A new impulse has, moreover, been given to its popularity in England by the fact that it has been pronounced pure from adulteration, or colouring. The scientific Commission lately employed by the *Lancet* to examine into the adulteration of articles of food, have published some extraordinary statements with regard to the dying process habitually applied to certain descriptions of Tea. Not only are all kinds of frauds practised in England, such as re-drying exhausted tea-leaves, and drying them with blacklead, and "a vegetable red mixed with carbonate of lime," but in China itself, teas are doctored for the English market, like wines in the South of France. In some instances, the black teas were found by the Commission abovementioned, to have been "faced" with powdered tale, indigo, and turmeric. Of the green tea, every kind, without exception, was found to be dyed, generally with Prussian blue, indigo, turmeric, and China clay, none of which substances, if we except the turmeric, are at all adapted for human digestion, and some of which are highly deleterious. In the Assam tea, on the contrary, which was subjected to the same strict chemical analysis, no colouring matter or adulteration of any kind could be detected, but the colour of the leaf was yellowish instead of presenting the bright green visible on the China leaf. The conclusion, therefore, is arrived at, that really good tea is never of a bright green colour, and the defective hue of the

Assam tea is the best sign of its genuineness. A correspondent of the *Times*, who signs himself "Indophilus," confirms the account of the dying process in Canton, and of the exemption of Indian tea, in the following terms:—

"I have not alluded, hitherto, to a difficulty which was at one time experienced, that of determining whether one or two plants were employed by the Chinese in making the best green and black teas of commerce, in consequence of the discrepant statements from Canton. The difficulty has long since been resolved by the experiments in Assam and in Kumaon, where both kinds of tea are manufactured from the same plant, also by Mr. Fortune's observations on his first visit to China, and by Mr. Ball's very able work on the manufacture of tea in China. The difference in appearance and quality depend upon differences in the processes of manufacture, the greatest difference consisting in the black tea having to undergo a process of fermentation, or withering, as it is called, while the leaves for the green tea are roasted without undergoing any previous change. No colouring matter is required, and none is allowed to be used in the East India Company's tea nurseries; but when purchasers in Canton required the green tea to be of as brilliant a hue as some of our country, the Chinese did not hesitate to supply the requisite quantity of indigo or Prussian blue and yellow turmeric to produce the desired bright green."

It may be true, as the *Bombay Gazette* says, that the English people are accustomed to be poisoned, but we cannot suppose but that when the Assam tea becomes generally known, and is found to be equal to the best China Tea, and without any injurious mixture, it will find an unlimited market. The only difficulty will be to raise a sufficient quantity to keep the taste for Indian Teas alive. The Himalaya farms, even were they on the gigantic scale talked of by "Indophilus," are not likely to supply any great quantity of tea for many years, and being under Government superintendence, will in all probability be worked with somewhat less energy and economy, than those which are supported by private enterprise. The Assam Tea Company, on the other hand, has surmounted all the preliminary difficulties of cultivation, and their pecuniary affairs, under the vigilant superintendence of Mr. Mornay, are beginning to recover from the effects of a degree of extravagance and mismanagement unparalleled even in the history of Indian Companies. Their operations are still, however, understood to be crippled by want of Funds, that is, think a vigorous effort should be made to raise additional resources in England. The slightest disturbance in China, an event by no means impossible in the present political condition of that country, would give their tea, from its cheapness, an immense impetus, and we know of no Company in India, which affords the same positive certainty of being able to employ additional funds with advantage.

**UNATTACHED ENSIGNS.**—In noticing a few weeks ago, the order of the Court of Directors, promoting Ensign Douglas, unattached, to a Lieutenancy unattached, we observed that non-commissioned officers in the Company's Service, were in reality injured by this system of promotion. They are required to keep up a position, in some degree, however slightly, superior to that which they formerly held, while the advantages of pension are entirely nominal. We have since received ample proof of the truth of our remarks, and of the hardship unintentionally inflicted by the Court of Directors upon men who have served them with a fidelity equalled only by their courage in the field. We select one particular instance as an illustration of our argument, but as it might do the Ensign in question some injury were it supposed that he was "writing to the papers," we must premise, that we have never had the slightest communication with him, direct or indirect. We allude to Mr. Donovan, Quarter Master of the Regiment of

Loonah, formerly a private in the Fusiliers, but promoted after the first Punjab Campaign. Mr. Donovan served for nearly twenty years as a non-commissioned officer in the 1st and 2nd Bengal Fusiliers, without a single black mark to his name,—went with the 1st Regiment to Cabul, where he served throughout almost the entire war,—served in Seinda where he was engaged in every action, and after being thrice wounded in the Punjab Campaign, received the barren honor of a Commission, unattached. Should he, after his long service, three years of which have been spent as a Commissioned Officer, hope to retire, he will receive a pittance of 2*d.* 6*d.* a day, a few pence more than a Sergeant, and less than the pension of a Warrant Officer! It is in this portion of their reward, the comfortable maintenance in old age, so long looked forward to, and so hardly earned,—that we consider the hardship of these unattached officers to consist. While borne on the strength of the army, they are generally well provided for in different capacities, in Irregular Corps, or in the Commissariat, but their pensions do not correspond either with their long services, or with the liberality generally displayed by the Court, and, we feel assured that the facts of the case have only to be brought fairly to the notice of the Home Authorities to secure a reform.

We have never yet, we confess, heard any valid reason, for making so great a distinction between officers who have risen from the ranks in the Queen's and Company's Army. In the former, the non-commissioned is really fortunate in his promotion, for although generally too poor to rise *per saltum*, he enjoys the same prospect of promotion from casualties as his brother officers. The system has as yet produced no evil in that service, while it cannot be doubted, that the sight of a single officer who has risen from the ranks, imparts more hope and energy to the heart of the private soldier than ten thousand honourable but unprofitable decorations.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SHIP-BURNING.**—This Committee, which was appointed in May last, has at length presented its report, but the result of its enquiries, as far as regards the object of obtaining definite information on the origin of the fires, is not very encouraging. Its labours have not, however, been unfruitful in other respects, and the report contains a number of observations and suggestions, which emanating as they do from thoroughly practical men, are of considerable value, and will, we hope, revive attention from the Government of Bengal. The report contains some curious articles of evidence,—an antiquity so great, that we may express some surprise that the lacera and syramids did not at once by itself all surface, and make a bold stand on the "rest of rights." So early as 1816, three cases of ship-burning within a few months, were brought to the notice of the Government, and a Commission, of which John Palmer was one member, was appointed to investigate the causes of these catastrophes. Their report is no longer in existence, but it is quoted in that of another Commission, which sat four years later, and in that quotation occurs a notice of another which had been assembled so far back as 1781 for a similar purpose. None of these Commissions, however, have obtained much practical information, but the report of the one appointed in 1816, produced the Marine Registry Office. The Committee of 1851 was ordered to enquire into four distinct subjects. First, "to ascertain and set forth precisely what foundation there was for the opinion that all or some of the late disasters by fire were caused by incendiaries." Secondly, "to enquire whether there was sufficient ground for supposing that the late burnings were part of any systematic or organized plan lately put into action in this port, or the work of Criminals acting in such instance independently and

















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Ensign Lester.	Rs. 10
Asst. Surgeon R. B. Hinton.	Rs. 10

**RANGOON AND BURMESE AFFAIRS.**—The *Proserpine* Steamer has returned from Rangoon with despatches brought by Captain Lister, the interpreter to the Commodore, and full particulars have appeared of the progress of the expedition in our local journals, but more particularly in the *Englishman*, from which the following narrative is drawn. Her Majesty's ship *Fox*, and the *Tenasserim* and *Proserpine* steamers anchored off Rangoon, on Tuesday, the 25th of November. The next morning a message was sent on board by the Governor of Rangoon, desiring that the vessels might be removed to another position, to which it was replied, that Her Majesty's vessels of war chose the positions that best suited them. At nine A. M., Captain Lister was sent on shore to ascertain why none of the British Residents had been on board. He returned in about two hours with the Bar. Mr. Kincaid and Mr. Birrell, who informed the Commodore that the Governor had threatened to behold any of the Europeans who attempted to hold communication with the vessels of war. On Thursday, the Europeans came on board and had an interview with the Commodore, in which they represented in strong colours the character and proceedings of the present Governor, and showed that the outrages committed on Captains Shepherd and Lewis, were mild compared with the oppression inflicted on others. The Commodore had previously prepared a letter to the Governor, demanding the sum of 10,000 Rupees, by way of indemnity, and, also a letter of apology. He now wrote another in its stead, stating that he had come to demand satisfaction for the injuries and insults committed on British subjects, but since his arrival they had represented the conduct of the Burmese authorities in so much more aggravated a light, that he should refer the matter to the Government of India. At 11 A. M. on that day, Captain Tarleton, the commander of the *Fox*, with Captain Lister, Mr. Elliot, 1st Lieut. of Marines, and Mr. Southey, Secretary, landed with the letter, and were received by several Burmese officers and a guard; they then mounted the four ponies which had been procured for them, and rode out about two miles to the Governor's residence. The road was lined with about 3,500 armed men, 150 of whom might have been regular troops, the rest being a rabble impressed

for the occasion. They were all ushered into the hall of audience, handsomely decorated and filled with armed men, who were gaudily dressed, and all the Governors of the surrounding districts. Capt. Tarleton and his party refused to be seated, but remained standing till the Commodore entered, when Capt. Lister read the Commodore's letter, first in English and then in Burmese. It was listened to with mute astonishment. The Governor, it is said, was so astounded that he could make no reply, and trembled so violently as to be unable to shake off the ashes from his sizar. He shook hands with Captain Tarleton, and asked him to be seated, but he declined the honour, stating that his mission was completed; and with these words walked out of the room. On Friday, the Deputy Governor of Rangoon came on board, accompanied by several officers in full costume, with a message from the Governor to ask of what, and by whom, he was accused. The Commodore returned for answer that he had nothing more to say to him, and handed him the letter which had been written in Calcutta for the King, and desired that it might be forwarded to Ava, adding, that unless an answer was received in five weeks, he should take other steps. Here the matter rests. The petition of the oppressed merchants and residents to the number of One hundred has been forwarded to the Governor General, and may possibly hasten his return to Calcutta, as it is advisable he should be here when the Ava ultimatum arrives.

The future is all conjecture. One man thinks the Burmese will submit, pay the indemnity, and apologise. It would be strange indeed if others, guided possibly by their wishes, did not think that the King would be disposed to throw down the gauntlet to us, more especially as the force sent to Rangoon is so very limited. The map of India has been opened by them—the last edition of Allen, and the gap between the two patches of red which mark our territories in Arracan on the one side, and in Moulmein on the other, has not failed to arrest the eye, and an involuntary wish has arisen, we do not say in our own mind, that the intermediate space, now misgoverned by the Burmese, might also become red. It contains the Delta of the Irrawaddy, the rich teak forests of Pegu, and the magnificent port of Rangoon, evidently destined one day to become the emporium of a large commerce. The future destiny of this province now trembles in the balance. If the King of Ava is obstreperous it must become British, in spite of our most pacific intentions. We are disposed to think that the matter will not, after all, be hushed up so quietly as some suppose. The Memorial to Commodore Lambert concludes with these memorable words. "We feel every confidence that the determination you may come to, will be one becoming your rank and position, but we earnestly pray, that you will bear in mind, that the privilege you now concede to us, as British subjects, of making our complaints known to you, will, on your departure, if continued protection is not afforded us, be voided on us with ten-fold cruelty and outrage." It is impossible not to feel the truth of this assertion; and it must become the basis of action. After the demonstration we have made, and the irritation we have inflicted on the Burmese

Court, we must plant a Consular Agent at Rangoon, for the protection of our merchants and our trade, or give up the commerce of that port altogether. But the establishment of a foreign and independent agent—a "barbarian eye," as the Chinese so admirably designate him—in the Burmese dominions, is the concession which the Court of Ava will be disposed about all things to refuse; and the course of future events will evidently turn upon this one point, on which we must insist with a pertinacity, exactly proportioned to the resistance it may encounter.

## ARRANGEMENTS OF THE P. AND O. COMPANY.

—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's Steam Ship *Erin*, which vessel it will be recollected took the place of the *Proserpine* on the accident occurring to the latter vessel at Cowally during the late Hurricane, may be expected here on the 14th instant, or possibly a day earlier. She will bring news from England down to the 10th November, and it is very probable that she will anticipate the arrival of the London Mail of the 7th November via Marseilles and Bombay, as the earliest arrival of the Bi-monthly in the month of December was in 1846 on the 15th, whereas last year it only reached here on the 15th.

This Company's new Screw Steam Ship *Shaugh* started from Southampton for Calcutta on the 23d October, touching at the Cape with important Government despatches.

The *Bentick* having undergone extensive repairs and alterations, is to start from Southampton for Alexandria on the 20th November, with the Overland Passengers for India and China.

The P. and O. Company's Flag was hoisted half mast high on Saturday, in consequence of intelligence having that morning reached the Agents of the death of Captain Richard Bourne, R.N., one of the Directors of the Company.

**THE NEW BRITISH INDIA ASSOCIATION AND THE POLICE.**—The New British India Association, the establishment of which we announced a week ago, have commenced operations by an attack on the law for the further repression of Dacoity and other crimes in the Lower Provinces, which is now under consideration. In thus directing their first manifesto against an enactment, for which the country has been so long importunate, and the sole object of which is to promote the welfare of the people, we cannot but think that they have committed a serious error, from the effect of which they will not speedily recover. They oppose the Act chiefly on the ground that it may possibly affect the individuals of the class,—that of landholders—of which the Association is principally composed, and, in our humble judgment, they have acted indiscreetly in thus placing their own class interests in opposition to those of the community at large.

It is of course well known, and universally acknowledged, that the crime of dacoity has increased within the last eight or ten years in the Lower Provinces to such an extent, as to render life and property utterly insecure. The remark made by one of the Magistrates, that no man with property of the value of 2 or 300 Rs. retires to rest within a hundred miles of

Calcutta, with the certainty that he shall not be robbed of it before the morning, has not been controverted. The blame which belongs to this state of things, has, of course, been thrown on the Government of the country, and not without justice, for matters cannot have come to this pass except through culpable neglect. But it appears singular, though by no means unaccountable, that Government should be censured quite as much for the vigorous efforts which it has determined to make, in accordance with the result of past experience, to eradicate these disorders, as it has been for the prevalence and increase of them. The natural consequence of this double and indiscriminate censure, must be to deprive the opinion of those who indulge in it of all real weight and value, and to render Government altogether indifferent to public animadversion. Were it not for the tremendous consequences which would ensue, we could almost wish, after reading the Memorial under review, that the Government of Bengal could be made over for a twelvemonth to the Rajahs and Baboos who compose this Association, that we might have an opportunity of witnessing the result of their disinterested and benevolent statesmanship.

The Act is intended to provide for a present exigency, and for the future prevention of these evils. The Police Committee of 1837 very justly stated that "in cases of Dacoity, when that disease of the Bengal Provinces becomes, as it were, epidemic, it is then to be overcome by special remedies, and, like Thuggee in Central India, must be met by extraordinary arrangements." Dacoity is the great normal disease of Bengal, and breaks out from time to time with great virulence. It raged with much violence in 1774; then again in 1807; and then about eight or nine years ago. On each of these occasions the Government has been constrained to meet the crisis by extraordinary remedies, and to adopt a course of vigor beyond the ordinary routine of law. On the present occasion, it is proposed to ordain in the new Act that any man who is proved to have belonged to a gang of Dacoits, of whatever tribe, shall be liable to transportation. The Association are just as loud in denouncing this enactment, as if it was a new measure never heard of before, and now promulgated for the first time; they designate it a retrograde movement, consisting in the enactment of harsh and severe laws. But they have altogether overlooked the fact that the Act they now object to, was passed eight years ago, and without the slightest remonstrance at the time, from those who now profess to look down from the height of their civilized humanity on the barbarism of the British Government. The present Act is merely a revival of Act XXIV. of 1848, with a trifling variation. The Preamble of the original Act stated that "it had been considered necessary to adopt more stringent measures for the conviction of professional Dacoits, who belong to certain tribes;" but the Courts, construing the Act by its Preamble, refused to convict any dacoits brought up before them who were not proved to have belonged to *certain tribes*, which cannot be said of *all* Dacoits. Through this technical objection, the law has become entirely operative, and no small impunity has been given to the dacoits; the profits have no increased in numbers and audacity, and the sphere of its operations is so greatly extended, that it has become indispensably necessary to put the Act of 1848 into full operation, without qualification. The new Act therefore

"removes doubts," and declares that that Act shall be applicable, as was originally intended, to the case of all Dacoits without reference to the tribe or caste to which they may belong. Why was not the original law objected to? Why was not the first law of the kind, passed in 1836 in reference to the practice of Thuggee, opposed? If, (this be a retrograde movement), it was commenced fifty years ago. This retrograde movement has been successful in eradicating the curse of Thuggee; it may be equally successful in eradicating that of Dacoity. At all events, it is worth while to make the trial. At the present time, we have more than a thousand professional Turpines, not one of whom has been engaged in less than ten dacoities, and who are on the watch for every opportunity of mustering their followers, and taking the field; and it is important to the peace and welfare of the country that they should be transferred forthwith to our penal settlements in the Bay. That Act is the most advisable which will do this most speedily and most effectually. The Association want a preventive Police; which is all very good in its time. But the house is on fire, and the fire must be extinguished at once after which we may take steps to prevent the recurrence of the calamity.

The repression of crime, says the Memorial, is to be effected by the certainty of detection and conviction. Exactly so; after we have transported all the notorious characters who now disturb the peace of the country, we must sit down to repress crime in the manner indicated in this paper. But Government has anticipated the advice of the Memorial, and resolved to take the most effectual steps towards the accomplishment of this object—it has determined to infuse new energy into the constabulary force established in each village for the detection of such crimes. No one will deny that if the 100,000 village watchmen had done their duty, these crimes would not have increased to so lamentable an extent, and the first business of Government, therefore, is, to provide for the reformation of this vast establishment, and the first step in reformation is to secure the prompt filling up of vacancies, and the punctual and adequate remuneration of the watchmen. To this arrangement, the Association raise the most strenuous objections. They are apprehensive lest it should in some measure affect their interests and their purses, and hence they are induced to deprecate a measure, which above all others which could have been devised, will lead to the detection of crime, and without which every other effort must be totally unavailing. We are happy to see that they have not minced the matter, but have spoken out with a degree of boldness, which, while it does them some credit, reflects still more credit on the Government which freely allows such language to be used as we find in the Memorial. They affirm that the village watchmen are the private servants of the community, and that Government has no right to insist on the appointment of any watchman, if the village communities do not consider their interests to require it. In other words, the continued existence of the whole village constabulary force of Bengal and Behar depends on the mere pleasure or interest of ignorant communities. Who are said to be at liberty to extinguish the entire system whenever they please to do so.

We join issue with the Memorialists on this assertion. The Police Establishment in the Lower Provinces has from the most ancient times, consisted of Rajahs, Zamindars, the Village Watchmen and the Police Officers, and Con-

stable—burkundahs. The institution of the Village Watch is the most ancient in the country, and indeed the only one which remains unchanged among us amidst the mutation of dynasties. The Memorial describes the establishment as having existed from "time immemorial." The mode of its appointment, and its payments, however, have never been clearly defined. It was not investigated at the time of the perpetual settlements, and the means of tracing its ancient history are now lost. The watchmen are nominated sometimes by the Zemindars, sometimes by the village communities; and their pay is subject to the same uncertainty. In some places they are said to be paid by the landlord, in others by his tenant. On the other hand, the regular police force of the country has always been a Government establishment, and the appointment of its members has devolved on those who were responsible for the peace of the country, while the expense has been invariably defrayed, in diverse ways, from public funds; but both descriptions of force have always been under the control of the Government and its officers. It is necessary to keep this distinction clearly in view, because much of the plausibility of the memorial arises from its having, inadvertently, confounded the two. Before the year 1793, the responsibility of maintaining the peace was vested in the landlords, but in consequence of "the notorious abuses which were committed by the zemindars, when they were invested with power in matters of police" they were deprived of this function, and were directed to "discharge the Darogahs and police officers whom they had appointed for the preservation of the peace." The charge of the police was then placed exclusively under the officers appointed by Government. At the time when the Landholders had charge of the Police, the Village Watchmen existed as a separate establishment; and it is not optional with the zemindars or the village communities to break up this ancient institution and to disband the whole staff of 100,000 watchmen. It may be true that the Regulations of 1793 did not "give the Government a right to insist on the appointment of village watchmen;" but it did more; it recognized the immemorial existence of this right, and enforced it by directing that "all village watchmen should be subject to the orders of the Darogahs, that the Darogahs should keep a register of their names, and that upon the death or removal of any of them, the landholders or others to whom the filling up of the vacancies should belong should send the names of the persons whom they might appoint to the Darogah of the jurisdiction." Our legislators were not then creating a new institution, but making arrangements for the more efficient working of an old one, which the memorialists themselves admit to have existed from "time immemorial." Neither are the watchmen the private servants of the community; they have, from a period of the remotest antiquity, been subject to the orders of those to whom the responsibility of the police was entrusted. In the year 1793, they were then subject to the Zemindars; since that date they have been placed under the orders of the Government Darogahs. They are part and parcel of the Police establishment to which the definition of crime is entrusted.

As regards the payment of their allowances, the proposed Act enacts that "the Magistrate shall see that sufficient payments and allowances are regularly made to the village watchmen by the landholders or other persons liable to make good the same, and in default of

any instance to the contrary, the Zemindars or independent Talukdars shall be deemed liable thereunto. It is essential to any system of reform that the watchmen should be adequately and regularly paid. Whoever they are insufficiently remunerated for maintaining the peace, they are open to the office of those who live by violating it—which they seldom refuse. Natives invested with power never starve in India; and to give power without sufficient remuneration, is to throw that power into the scale of injustice and oppression. It would be better to abolish the institution of the village watch altogether, than to maintain it on the principle of half paying the watchmen, and leaving them to obtain the other half by assisting the disturbers of the peace. It is the ancient and immemorial law of the country that the watchmen shall receive a sufficient return for their public services. In general, this sum is paid by the village community; and it is the business of the Zemindar, with whom the appointment to the office of watchman chiefly rests, to see that the man is duly paid. When he neglects to perform this duty, Government cannot do better than make him responsible for it. There is no fear that he will lose a farthing by any such arrangement. We may safely leave it to his energy and discrimination to apportion this sum among his tenantry.

The British India Association object to the whole of the plan, and are anxious to escape all responsibility of payment: Hence the memorial endeavours to show that the Government of India at the present time raises large sums for the specific purpose of the Police, which are not appropriated to that object, but absorbed in the general revenues of the country. They assume that the whole cost of the village constabulary force, whether 60 lakhs of Rupees, or less, ought in all fairness and equity to be paid by the state, and not levied as a separate contribution on the community. They admit that this sum, or something like it, has been paid from time immemorial by the village communities; but according to their shewing the impost has been unjust since 1793, because the Government has all along been raising sufficient funds for Police purposes and withholding them from that object; yet they have never once attempted to relieve the poor suffering people from these heavy payments; but no sooner do they find it proposed to make them themselves responsible in the first instance, for a portion of this sum, than they ransack the laws and records of Government with all diligence, and discover that Government is now, and has been for fifty years drawing a revenue from the country under the plea of the police, and enriching its own treasury with it. The sources from which they affirm that Government has obtained funds which are strictly applicable to the Police, are five. Let us examine them in detail.

1. The original settlement with the Zemindars contained, they say, an item of Muzhoot *Thannadars*, or provision for the founders and *Shannadars*, value two lakhs and a half. This belongs to the Police. We wish the Memorialists would inform us where we can find any mention of this impost? We have not through *Chand's* *Analysis*, and *Black's* *Minutes*, the *Settlement* books, which contain the knowledge of the revenue system before the permanent settlement is drawn, but we discover no trace of the term.

2. There was another item of Six lakhs, one med *Abwab* *Founders* (one, formerly paid to the founders, and afterwards consolidated with the rent. The Memorialists intend, we suppose, to affirm that this was a "police impost under

the Mahomedans, and is now paid for police objects to Government by the Zemindars. They are altogether mistaken. "These imposts were levied permanent assessments on the land, levied by the subordinate provincial rulers within their respective jurisdictions,—and the burden of them fell almost entirely on the distant frontier districts which originally were imperfectly conquered or explored."

3. The Memorialists claim the whole of the Stamp revenue for the Police, because, in 1793, Government established a police tax in every district, and three years after, abolished it, substituting in its stead the stamp tax, for the two-fold purpose "of providing for the deficiency which would be occasioned in the public revenue by the abolition of the Police tax, and of adding eventually to the Government revenue";—therefore the Twenty-two lakhs of Rupees a year derived from the Stamps, belong to the Police!

4. The Memorialists claim the whole of the tax on spirituous liquors for the Police—because, the tax was intended, among other objects, "to prevent the perpetration of crimes," and Government "was anxious to make the tax as much as possible conducive to the general purposes of the police;" that is, "by giving the Magistrate a more efficient and immediate control over the venditor!"

5. Lastly, they claim all the river tolls, though it would be difficult even for native ingenuity to discover, in the establishment of a toll "for keeping open a direct channel of communication between the Hooghly and the Ganges," the remotest ground for considering the returns of this tax applicable to the Police!

The argument of the Memorial is feeble enough without this addition to its weakness; but this attempt to make out a case for saddling Government with the whole expense of the Police is so signal and palpable a failure, as to lead to the conclusion that an Association which has begun so very injudiciously is not likely to be of any more service to the interests of the country than its predecessors, who are already numbered with the dead. Even, supposing these funds to have been specifically devoted to the Government Police, this would not prove that the community is to be exonerated from the charge of the *Village Watchmen* which they have paid from "time immemorial." This article has extended far beyond our original intention; and we have only room to remark that the Act establishes no new principle of law. It applies to the extinction of Dacoity, the rules which have been so successful in eradicating Thuggee; and it endeavors to render the ancient, and time-honored institution of the Village watch efficient, by the simple and unostentatious process of ordaining that vacancies shall be promptly filled up, and incumbents sufficiently paid.

THE SMALL CAUSE BENCH.—We are happy to perceive that the Chief Justice has undertaken to supply the place of the late Mr. Reddie in the Small Cause Court, until the vacancy can be filled up. This will enable Government to postpone the nomination of another Judge, till Lord Dalhousie reaches Calcutta, without inflicting any inconvenience on the suitors. So entirely had Mr. Reddie won the confidence of the public by a rare combination of high legal attainments with a spirit of the most patient investigation, and unexampled flexibility, that a more difficult task has seldom devolved on Government than that of finding a suitable successor for this most important office. Whoever may be appointed to this post, must necessarily labor for a time under all the

disadvantages of comparison; and unless Government is singularly happy in its selection, this disadvantage will long continue to impede the popularity and efficiency of the Court, and to postpone the extension of its jurisdiction, which was contemplated when Mr. Reddie was snatched from us. Under his able guidance, this noble experiment of cheap and speedy justice was crowned with such complete success, as to force on Government the necessity of enlarging the powers of the Court, and entrusting to it the cognizance of all cases within 1000 Rs. In that case, it would have been indispensably necessary to increase the allowance of the First Judge to 2000 Rs. Such we believe was the intention of Government, and it is no small addition to our regret that our lamented friend did not live to enjoy the just reward of his zeal and assiduity. The propriety of every scale of remuneration is of course decided by comparison. While the Civil Judge of the 24-Pergunnas continued to receive 2500 Rs. a month, it would have been impossible—we mean on the principle of consistency—for Government to have refused to the presiding Judge of the Small Cause Court, duties requiring nearly more professional ability, and demanding twice as much application, at the very least four-fifths of this allowance.

We perceive that the Library of Mr. Reddie is to be sold, on Friday next, and we venture to mention the circumstance, to enable his friends to provide themselves with some appropriate remembrance of him. Our contemporaries have also called public attention to the sale of this valuable collection of books, the work of many years, and we hope the proceeds will make a substantial addition to the assets of his estate.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, has of late excited much discussion in the Indian journals. This is the natural result of the rapid approach of the period for a Parliamentary investigation of the working of our administrative system in India, and the introduction of new elements and new principles into it. It is a subject of the deepest importance to the welfare of the country, for the happiness of the people depends, for the most part, on the conduct of the Eight Hundred and Fifty Civilian at the three Presidencies to whom the performance, or the superintendence, of the whole of the civil, criminal, police, and fiscal duties have been entrusted. The articles which have appeared on this subject in the various journals may be considered as an exponent of the wishes of the non-official community, and among the foremost of these, appear to be the desire of breaking up what is called the exclusiveness of the service, and throwing its offices open to local competition;—in other words, of admitting other besides those who have received a covenanted appointment from home to the dignities, influence, and emoluments which are enjoyed by "the Civilian." The notions which are entertained on this subject, appear to us however, to be neither very clear, nor very correct, and we present a brief remark or two on it.

The question of an exclusive or an open service must evidently depend upon the determination of a prior question, viz. whether it is deemed necessary to have a service trained for those special duties which are now performed by the members of the Civil Service, or not. It is quite true, that the service was exclusive before it was trained. The principle of exclusiveness came in from the very beginning with the Company's commercial monopoly. As merchants, they resisted the admission of all

interlopers, and the management of their own commercial enterprises was entrusted to a body of their own servants, who were generally appointed from home.—The young Civilian came out to the factory of Calcutta as a Writer, upon 30 Rs. a month, and rose through the grades of Factor, and Junior and Senior Merchant. When the Company came into possession of large territories, the administration of them was necessarily given to the body of its covenanted servants, who had been appointed to conduct their mercantile affairs; and for many years it was not deemed necessary to give them any specific training for these new duties. The raw material was procured from various sources at home. Sometimes a lad was taken at fifteen from Eton, like Lord Metcalfe, and sent out at once to India; sometimes a youth was drawn from some private School through the favor of a Director, and put into a merchant's office to learn book-keeping, which, before the commencement of the present century, was considered almost the only essential qualification for the Civil Service. It was Lord Wellesley who first perceived and enforced the necessity of a superior and an especial education for those who were to be employed in the public administration in India. His views have acquired increased force with every addition which has been made to our territories, and we believe it is now admitted as an incontrovertible maxim, that those who are to be entrusted with the important functions of Government in India, in its various departments, should have their education especially directed to these objects. General experience bears against the propriety of leaving the Civil Service to be offered entirely from the recruits who might be picked up in this country. Any such attempt would introduce universal confusion and derangement into the whole system of Government. Doubtless, if it were known that the great prizes in the service were open to competition, there would be a larger influx of able men into India, but they would be inadequate to the wants of a large and graduated service, in which by far the largest number must labor for years in the lower grades, on allowances comparatively small. Neither must the question of training a body of men for the peculiar duties of the service before they enter it, be mixed up with the question of patronage, which belongs entirely to another branch of the subject. Whether the appointments to the Civil Service continue to be vested, as at present, in a Court of Directors, or are transferred to the Ministers of the Crown, or to the Board of Control, we believe it will be found equally indispensable that a certain number of men should be appointed to this Service in England, and that they should receive that peculiar training which is found to be a necessary qualification for the peculiar responsibilities and duties which will devolve on them in India.

If these views be correct, it follows that the men thus selected, educated, and appointed must possess a well defined certainty of promotion in the service to which they are about to devote their lives, and with which all their future prospects are to be identified. An exclusive service is the inevitable result of a trained service; and the members of it must have an exclusive right to the succession of certain offices, and the privileges and emoluments attached to them. The promotion must run in their own line. After men have prepared themselves for these offices, and have been led to look to them for professional support during the whole of their future career, it would be an act of great injustice to expose them to the

chance of being superseded by individuals totally unconnected with their body. It would be unjust, after they had toiled up the ladder, for ten or fifteen years, and one of the prizes appeared to be just within their grasp, to allow it to be snatched from them by any adventurer who happened to possess interest at Head Quarters.

It would, also, be an act of great impolicy. The natural result of such supersessions would be to deprive the service of all its attractions, and to prevent men of ability from entering it, and planting the prospects of their lives on so uncertain a basis. The service would be rapidly deteriorated to such a degree as to render the propriety of keeping it up as an instrument of government, a matter of great doubt. We consider it, therefore, indispensable to an efficient Indian administration, at least under existing circumstances, that the Civil Service should be exclusively endowed with the enjoyment of a certain circle of offices, and that sufficient inducement be thus afforded to men to submit to the training necessary for it; and any idea of throwing it open, appears altogether incompatible with its essential character. This would not of course interfere with the power of Government to bestow particular offices, for particular reasons, on men of talent, not in the service. This power has always been freely exercised by the Government of India, without being considered as in any measure affecting the general prospects or rights of the Service. Many of the offices which belonged to the service sixty years ago, have since been taken out of the line, and bestowed on those who did not belong to it. The office of Mint Master has been transferred to a Military officer, almost within our recollection. And Lord Dalhousie is said to consider that the post of Chief Magistrate and Post Master General at this presidency, should, in like manner, be reserved for the ablest men who are to be found beyond the pale of the service. But whatever offices may be allotted to a trained and covenanted service, must be exclusively reserved for them, and they must be enabled to calculate with certainty on succeeding to them, either on the principle of seniority or of merit.

Nor must we forget the large field which would thus be opened for the exercise of jobbery. We have always considered the constitution of the Civil Service,—by which we mean the principle of appointing to the Service in England, and leaving the appointment to Office in India to the local Government,—as one of the happiest contrivances of human wisdom, and we would give much to know the name of the Statesman to whom we are indebted for it. It affords, we think, as strong a protection against the evils of patronage as the imperfection of human nature will admit of. Let this barrier once be broken down, and the service will be inundated and swamped with Downing Street jobbery; we should have Indian appointments of the most important character bartered for Parliamentary votes; and what between the jobbery in India and the jobbery in England, we should deserve to lose the country.

The same rule is most strictly observed in other departments. The Civil Service of India is not a more exclusive service than the Army, whether Queen's or Company's. After a youth, has passed his examination, and obtained a commission, he looks to the Military profession for his support through life, and all his future prospects are identified with it. Even when he does not succeed in attaining any of the prizes in his own Regiment or in the Army, he attributes his disappointment to his own "ill-

luck;" the coveted post goes to some more fortunate brother officer, holding a commission like himself. But let it once be considered possible for a Majority or a Company, or even an Adjutant, to be given to a son military man, however great his natural genius, and the value of the service would instantly vanish. We should, indeed, most effectually have broken up its exclusiveness, and thrown the army open to the public, but we should at the same time have entirely destroyed its distinguishing character and utility, and extinguished all those feelings of hope and confidence which animate the men who enter it to the performance of their duty.

Again; we have heard that in times long since past, some of the gentlemen of the bar, have reprobated the exclusiveness of the Civil Service, and advocated the plan of throwing its privileges and its prizes open to the public generally. But is not the legal profession as strictly exclusive as that of the Civil Service? Those who have been trained to the bar, and adopted it as their profession, for life, have been allured by those prospects of profit and promotion, which are exclusively attached to it. In their own case, they would resent any proposal to share their professional advantages with those who had not like themselves, been called to the bar; they monopolize with feelings of the most extreme sensitiveness the privilege of addressing the bench, and conducting suits before the Judges, and the whole body would rise in arms against any attempt to place on the bench the ablest Jurist in England, who did not belong to the profession.

Even in this country, where it has been deemed important to create an auxiliary and unconnected class of Judges, it has been found necessary to invest it with the same exclusive privileges which belong to the covenanted Civil Service. Men enter the Uncovenanted Judicial Service, as Mooniffs, after having passed a successful examination and received a diploma; and they are led by Government to calculate with confidence on promotion to the superior grades, in proportion to their zeal and ability. No man who has not served in the post of Mooniff, is, by the rules of the service, allowed to receive the appointment of Principal Sudder Ameen, and the introduction of any such interloper, would justly be deemed an act of injustice to the great body of the service, because it would deprive them of those expectations which formed its chief attractions. The Uncovenanted judicial service, is, therefore, as exclusive as the Covenanted, and experience has shown that it would be impossible to secure the services of efficient men, even in India, and to supply them with the necessary stimulants to exertion, on any other principle than that of giving them definite prospects, and protecting them from supersession.

These remarks have extended so much beyond our original intention, that we must reserve to the next week, our observations on the mode of appointment, and on the emoluments of the service.

THE SECRETARIES REPORT OF THE MARRAS WIDOWS AND ORPHANS FUND FOR 1860-61.—Those clear readers who had an interest in such matters, may perhaps remember that we noticed at considerable length two previous Reports of this Fund, and that, while we earnestly applauded the principle of the Association, we also earnestly urged upon its members a considerable modification of their fundamental rules, and especially such a revision of the rates of subscription as we believed to be essential to the permanence of the fund. Our main re-



















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U. N. P. GRANT, Secretary  
Calcutta, Wednesday, 19th Nov., 1851.

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has been accustomed to put down insurrection in any of the provinces. These statements, backed by his wealth, may incline the Court of Ava to resistance. But even if they should produce no other effect than that of inducing the King to refuse immediate submission to our demands, this would of itself be sufficient to compromise the two powers. We must make a practical demonstration of our power, and the first shot which is fired will kindle a war between the two countries which we must prosecute to ultimate success. The slightest appearance of wavering on our part at the present time, after we have demanded redress by an armed force, would be considered a token of pusillanimity, and hasten the war it might be intended to avert; and, at the same time, by giving confidence to the enemy, render the struggle more obstinate and sanguinary. Nothing but the unconditional submission of a voracious Court, which has possibly forgotten the lesson we taught it in 1825, can apparently prevent the addition of Pegu and Rangoon to our dominions, and the establishment of a daily post between Calcutta and Mandalay.

One thing is certain: the kingdom of Burma can no longer maintain its isolated position, and remain aloof to the commerce of the civilized world. There is a tendency in the progress of circumstances which we endeavor vainly to resist. It is clear that no such barrier can in future be allowed to raise obstacles to a free intercourse with the commercial powers of Europe and America. The establishment of sea-going steamers, of large power and great speed, has given a vast impulse to the spirit of commercial enterprise. They facilitate access to all sea ports, and at the same time place them within the grasp of those who have the means of compelling compliance with their wishes. Under the growing influence of steam communication, every port throughout Asia must necessarily be opened to the enterprises of European and American commerce, long before the close of the present century.

The result of our present interference may, at the very least, be the establishment of a Consular Agent at Rangoon, who must be supported by a vessel of war. It is idle to suppose that the British Government can any longer delay to afford the same protection to European merchants in the port of Rangoon, which they enjoyed in the Celestial ports of China. They will be found to be less important than those of Burmese dominions, must be as completely thrown open to commercial undertakings, as those of the emperor of China. In sending this argument, we have happily taken time by the forelock, and gained the start of Brother Jonathan. He is going to open Japan to European and American commerce, and he will doubtless accomplish the task with the assistance of energy. We believe there can be little, if any, doubt that the United States were fully prepared to plant a Consul at Rangoon, and to take whatever steps might have been found necessary to support the trading interests which they have gained, and we are just in time to prevent the introduction of American supremacy in the waters of the Irrawaddy.

**APPOINTMENT AND ALLOWANCES OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.**—In our last issue, we endeavored to shew that if men were to be trained for the Civil Service in England, before they were appointed to it—whether that training was effected in public schools, or under private tuition, or at Harebury, College—it would be necessary to give them the assurance of succession, either by seniority or merit, to the offices appropriated to their service, without the risk of being superseded by interlopers.

We now resume the subject, and state with confidence, that whatever improvement in the character of the service is considered desirable, must be effected, not by throwing open offices to competition in India, but by opening the service to competition in England. No one will deny that the amount of genuine talent in the service is very great indeed, and that as a body, the Service will stand a triumphant comparison with any similar body of public servants in any of the colonies or dependencies of England. At the same time, the mode of remunerating the Directors for their labors in the administration of this country, by giving them the exclusive enjoyment of its patronage, is open to serious objections, chiefly, because it makes interest rather than merit the basis of introduction to the service; and it is no small credit to the Citizens, that they should exhibit so much ability of the highest order under a system, in which it could not reasonably have been expected. In England, the only obstacle to the admission of incompetent men that is provided, is the preliminary examination; but in this country, we must conclude that the examination, though it may be satisfactory to the Directors, is not of so stringent a character as not to admit a considerable number of those who ought to have been kept at home to find their own level. Every one here feels that the Court do unquestionably make provision for too great a number of drones, and that if all their bad bargains were returned at once on their hands, the service would be more than decimated. It is beginning to be increasingly felt that India does not, under the present system, obtain from England such an amount of talent for its Civil Service as it has a right, in this advanced age, to expect, and which it is so well able to pay for, and which England is so perfectly capable of supplying. The sphere of selection for the Service, requires to be enlarged beyond the narrow circle of the relatives, connections, and friends of the Directors.

The only mode of remedying this evil that we can think of, is to throw open the service to the competition of the public Schools, and the most eminent educational establishments in the three kingdoms. Some objections may doubtless be started to this proposal, but we think they will be found to be less important than those which must be brought against any other plan. It may be said, that those which every one feels against the present system. It may be said, that the education in the public Schools is not of that enlarged and liberal character which would fit men for such public employments, and that we require something more substantial and useful than an aptitude in Latin or Greek verification. To this it may be successfully replied, that the boys from the great public schools now or heretofore in the Civil Service, are among those who have contributed most effectually to raise its reputation, and who have been and are reckoned among the ablest and most efficient of the public servants. It is difficult, moreover, to believe, that where competition is free and unfettered, that two, three, or four most forward of two or three hundred well educated youths, will not be found, generally, to possess more intrinsic talent, more noble aspirations, and more fitness for public employ, than a vast many of those who now come into the service, simply through their family connections. If the patronage of the service was distributed on this principle, we should relieve it from the odium of jobbery, and secure

a succession of men of far greater ability, than, in our humble judgment, could be expected from any other scheme of nomination. We should bring new families, and new blood into the service. It is not for the benefit of the Indian administration, that men should be allowed to calculate with certainty on obtaining two or three writs for their sons or nephews, if a particular friend should happen to be in the Direction at the right time. At present, every public officer in India, so to speak, seems to be connected by the tie of relationship with every other officer. The public service of India is a collection of consinhoods. This has arisen partly from the constitution of the Company, and partly from the state of society in England at a former period. The Company was a close corporation, with a very little India in the east, lying somewhere between Persia and China, to which its young friends and connections were sent out to make fortune.

The Corporation thus imperceptibly became a kind of family concern, in which the various members of what may be called the Indian Families, were provided for. The sons of the territorial or commercial, from causes which would be obvious to the reader, did not feel any lack of aristocratic employment for their families, and few therefore turned their attention to Indian appointments. But all this is changing; from the greater distribution of wealth, the increasing number of families whose children are above the country, and the spirit of economy which has been introduced into the management of the household, it is necessary to seek a provision for their families in the colonial establishments, and the foreign dependencies of England. Hence, there is not the same indifference which existed in circles unconnected with India, thirty or forty years ago, to send their children out to this remote State of the civilized world, and all classes of society are looking to the manner of the first and twenty thousand, which is not to be a fourth countenance. Whatever may be the result, the Civil Service may be thrown open to a kind of national competition, we shall see the Indian consinhoods gradually dying out, and new men, with new feelings, new connections, and new aspirations introduced into the public service of India. The feeling of animosity, moreover, which is created by that undue partiality with which the Court of Directors regard a few friends, will be in a great measure abated, when they have to enter into the selection of appointments, to secure the best men for the service. The Directors will in that case be placed in a position to treat the whole body of public servants in India, on an equal and unenvied, with greater impartiality, and less of invidious distinction. If this arrangement were adopted, it would also be tending to reduce the redundant number of Directors, and render the body more efficient by making it more compact. While the service is exclusively filled up by the nominees of the Directors, there is manifest wisdom in keeping up the full complement of thirty Directors, being annually out of the seat—in order to prevent the accumulation of a vast and valuable patronage in too few hands, and running Indian appointments more than ever into family circles. The proposed modification would enable Parliament to reduce the Kings of the East to a more exacted number. It should not be forgotten, that it were necessary, while sovered of adopting this reduction in the number of Directors, at the termination of the pre-



prived him of half his allowances, because he had not passed the required examination in the Hindustanee language. As Lieut. Griffin's appeal against this order has been negative, we may now notice it as an *error*, which places in a prominent light one of the glaring anomalies which every now and then become manifest in our Indian administration. Every one who reads this article must of course be aware that the Court of Directors, after having for a long series of years, manifested the most perfect indifference to the vernacular qualifications of their officers in India, and allowed hundreds who had passed no examination to obtain staff appointments, and hundreds who had passed it to remain in the ranks, suddenly awoke from their slumbers, and sent out the most stringent orders that all staff officers should be subjected to an examination in the languages, and deposed if they did not pass by a certain day. It was accordingly ordered, that every officer in a staff employment who did not get through the ordeal, with credit, by the 1st of January, 1851, should be *reduced* to his corps. We pass over the anomaly of hereby declaring that the only officers for whom no knowledge whatever of the vernacular tongue was deemed necessary, were those to whom the command of Companies was entrusted throughout the army. This order created a great sensation in the service, and books and moonshoes rose to a premium. We were hoping that the Delhi Sketch book would have undertaken the duties of Punch, and given us a picture of a School room, fitted up to meet the requisitions, with the Commanders of Divisions, and Brigades, and the Adjutant, and Judge Advocate, and the Quarter Master General, and other military notabilities seated as little boys at the desk—like Punch's celebrated exhibition of "Little Harry asking for more,"—all diligently employed in studying the *Bhag-o-Bihar* and the *Tales of a Parrot*. The opportunity of giving us one of the best caricatures in India has, however, been lost.

But we have wandered from Lieutenant Griffin. He is justly esteemed one of the best Hindustanee scholars in the Deccan. He has published the following military works, in that language:

"A Treatise on Light Infantry Drill."  
"The Garrison Duties according to Regulation."

"Colonel Pasley's Rules for Escalading."

Besides these, he prepared three other works. By the terms of his Commission he is required to conform to the orders of the Resident at the Court of Hyderabad, and the Orders issued by the Adjutant General of the army to which he belongs are not considered in force in the Hyderabad territory, till they are re-issued from the Residency. The order for officers to pass an examination in the vernacular language before the 1st of January, 1851, was not issued at Hyderabad before the 20th of March in that year, and Lieutenant Griffin, immediately on receiving intimation of it, presented himself before the Committee sitting at Secunderabad, and passed a successful examination. But, because he had not passed by the 1st of January, that is, ten weeks before he received orders to appear for that purpose before the Committee, he has been treated as though he had failed to pass any examination, and has been removed from the service of the Nizam and remanded to his own corps. An appeal which has been made on his behalf to the Government of India, has proved fruitless; and the matter must therefore be referred to the Court of Directors. There is something

so whimsical in these proceedings, that we should regard them only as supplying food for ridicule, if they did not inflict so serious an injury on the prospects of a meritorious public servant. Perhaps, after all, the Government may only have intended to place the anomaly of this order in a prominent light before the Court of Directors, by shewing how it has resulted in pronouncing one of the best Hindustanee scholars in the Deccan, unfit for staff employment, by his ignorance of the vernacular language. On the result of the appeal to Leadenhall Street, there can of course be but one opinion.

LORD STANLEY, after having visited Ceylon and the Madras Presidency, has passed a few days in Calcutta, and proceeded to the North West Provinces, from whence he will drop down the Indus, and return to England in April next, by way of Bombay. Wherever his Lordship has visited, he has left the most favorable impression of his activity of mind, liberality of views, and affability; and all those who have had the pleasure of conversing with him have felt satisfied that the promise of future eminence in public life which his first efforts in Parliament afforded, are not likely to be disappointed. Since he landed on the shores of England, his time has been most diligently employed in investigating the character and the influence of the institutions which England has established in the East, and he has sought information on every variety of subject, at every variety of source. Though his visit to different places has necessarily been brief, and his tour rapid, he will carry home with him a large fund of information, which will enable him to assist in the coming discussions relative to the future administration of India, with the greatest advantage. The stock of accurate knowledge which men of such inquisitive minds, and large views are able to collect, even in a short period of time, when they lay themselves out to obtain it, places them on high vantage ground. The opinion thus formed of the nature of our Indian Government, and the condition of the people, by one of the rising statesmen of the day, on the basis of personal enquiry and observation, will be sure to carry far more weight than that of men who have no more idea of this country, or even its aspect, than they have of the Sea of Rupert's Land. Nor is it a small benefit to the cause of improvement in India that men at home occupying the influential position of Lord Robert Grosvenor, and Lord Stanley, should feel that personal interest in its affairs and its welfare, which inseparably grows out of personal intercourse with those who reside in it, and an instructive ramble through its various provinces.

THE FIRST JUDGE OF THE SMALL CAUSE COURT.—It is no longer a secret of state that Mr. Wylie, the Junior Magistrate of Calcutta, has been nominated to the post occupied by the late lamented Mr. Reddie, as First Judge of the Small Cause Court, and that the nomination now awaits the confirmation of the Governor General. He was not among the candidates; the office was proffered to him by the local Government, and he did not consider himself justified in refusing it. We can easily conceive the reluctance with which he would receive a proposal to occupy a seat so recently adorned by the talents of a man like Mr. Reddie, and to place himself in comparison with one who had rendered himself so justly and so eminently popular with all classes of the community. But we think Mr. Wylie has acted rightly in ac-

cepting this seat on the bench; and that the Government has acted with great judgment and discrimination in thrusting it upon him. He is unquestionably the fittest man for Mr. Reddie's successor, within the reach of the public authorities. He, also, is popular with the public,—the seven Goltly delinquents excepted,—and we feel certain he will not disappoint the general expectations of society. We rejoice to hear that the experiment of cheap, summary, and expeditious justice, which this Court, under its new modification, was intended to carry out, is considered to have been so successful, that its jurisdiction is to be enlarged, territorially, pecuniarily, and legally; and it will be a source of great satisfaction to Mr. Wylie, to have an opportunity of attracting the confidence of the public to the administration of justice in this enlarged sphere. It is a post of difficulty, and therefore of honor, and it is eminently calculated to kindle an honest ambition and to rouse the noblest energies of the mind. It will be a matter of no small congratulation for us in those outskirts of civilization, to find that we have gained the start of the legal institutions in England; and that while Parliament is slowly feeling its way to the enlargement of the jurisdiction of the County Courts at home to cases of 50*l*., we have here the demand of equity that we shall have a *small cause court* in every district, to the entire satisfaction of the community.

THE MACKAY.—The curtain has fallen on the Bechoopore tragedy. Those wretched creatures were on Saturday last sentenced to transportation for life. Never, we believe, has a case of more aggravated brutality been presented to the indignation of the public in India, and never has the judgment of the Court been received with such general approbation. Some small degree of compassion might possibly have been expected to arise in the case of a female, condemned to the degrading association of felons; but her conduct in this homicide was even more execrable than that of her partner in guilt, and the very criminals themselves, with whom she is now sent to herd, must feel themselves contaminated by the presence of such a fiend.

THE RAILWAY AND THE BOMBAY TELEGRAPH.—Our Bombay contemporary has again honored us with his queries, and as we are ever most ready to oblige him, or any of our inquisitive friends, we shall lose no time in giving him all the satisfaction in our power. He has been struck with the large amount of land taken for temporary purposes, as compared with that which is permanently occupied, and he asks what are these temporary purposes for which land is thus occupied? We tell him at once, for the side cuttings to form the embankments. Throughout the length of our line, the embankment rises five, six, or seven feet above the ordinary level of the country, and it is formed of the earth dug up from the land on either side temporarily occupied. Throughout the line we have ballast to burn—there being no stone,—but the land thus taken is not made over to the contractors, who are obliged to obtain the use of other ground for that purpose. This land is to be returned to the owners after the completion of the rail, when it is no longer required, and some allowance is to be made to them for the damage done to it; yet when restored to them, it can be of little use. It is too close to the rail, and it is moreover universally deteriorated by large excavations, which will be filled with water during the rains, and on which nothing can be sown



and eleven were females, who are confined in a separate apartment. The establishment is rather larger than that of ordinary jails, but the essential feature of the manufactory is, that all the prisoners are kept at work on remunerative occupations. The following brief sketch will give some idea of the nature of these labours:—

Prisoners sentenced for long terms and heinous offences are employed in the work of the manufactory, and they are distinguished by good conduct and ready obedience when engaged in their work, by the following description of them. They are not confined in any one place, but are employed in various departments, and are paid for their work at night, but at a low rate. The daily task averages 15 or 20 pounds of work, and the prisoners are not confined to the extent of 40 or 50 hours per day. A class of various kinds, carpets and wares, such as baskets are regularly made. Tile and brick making, pottery, carpenters' and sailmakers' work, and other trades are also carried on by the prisoners. The prisoners are also employed in the manufactory in a small and all the clothes worn by the prisoners are made and made by the prisoners. The prisoners are also employed in the manufactory in a small and all the clothes worn by the prisoners are made and made by the prisoners.

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The two great objects of discipline and salubrity within the prison, would thus appear to be obtained, and it only remained to provide that these men should not on their release from confinement become once more the scourge of the honest in industries. An auspicious experiment has been made in this direction, and under the able direction of Mr. Walker, the Governor of the Central Prison at Agra, the entire body of prisoners, young and old, have been put under instruction. The prisoners were at first disinclined to learn, but the introduction of a system of slight rewards soon overcame this difficulty, and in less than twelve months, the honest and industrious of their number were able to read and write, and to perform many other useful trades. The prisoners were at first disinclined to learn, but the introduction of a system of slight rewards soon overcame this difficulty, and in less than twelve months, the honest and industrious of their number were able to read and write, and to perform many other useful trades.

The successful results of this system of prison discipline and instruction, and it is out of a model for other establishments of the kind at this Presidency, and we trust the publication of the paper we are now reviewing will serve to draw the attention of the public authorities to this important subject.

We have no more observation to offer, and it refers to the remarkable difference between the returns of juvenile delinquency, in the statistics of this jail, and those of the English Police Courts. The last number of the *Edinburgh Review* gives us the astounding fact, that there were more than 3000 juvenile criminals in the year 1859, than in the year 1858. In Mysore, there were in the same year only 100 juvenile criminals of youth under that age, or, taking the population to be equal, Mysore would furnish about 160 juvenile criminals. That some portion of this disparity may be owing to the defective state of the Police in this country is scarcely probable, but even under this supposition, a large amount remains unaccounted for, and its causes might be investigated with advantage.

#### WEEKLY EPITOME OF NEWS.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11.

We are happy to perceive, that the *Agra Messenger* keeps its readers regularly informed of the progress of the Agra Civil Service Bonus Fund. The number of the subscribers has now reached 100, and the sum of money raised is Rs. 15,000, and the non-residents 25. It is expected that the remaining members of the Service will also give their adhesion to the scheme.

The same journal gives the fallacy of one or two of the reports so incessantly circulated concerning Sir R.

Barlow's enquiry into the Jotepore case. It was said, that a native witness, who had been summoned to appear, refused to attend, whereupon the immediate jurisdiction of the Magistrate's Court was put in motion, the man was "caught," and kept cooped his house without examination. The truth is, Sir R. Barlow knows no person whatever of the name, and the Magistrate's Court has no jurisdiction to receive the complaints of injured parties, and not to produce evidence by compulsion. The man refused, never referred to at all, and the delay in examining him, was effected by his own reluctance to speak truthfully. We hope to take up this subject and some other points of the "Press" next week.

The *Agra Messenger* notices under its local header, that the question as to the allotment of a piece of ground to be employed as a cemetery by the Dissenting community of that city has been settled, the Lieutenant Governor having decided that the entire expense of purchasing, levelling, and building in a space determined on by the Dissenters to them, should be borne by Government. The spot selected is about three acres in extent.

The *Lahore Chronicle* observes, that the rumors of the Meoitee Field Force having been ordered to hold itself in readiness for service in Upper India, are resolving themselves into a report. But all kinds of rumors have been flying through the air, and the Government has been very busy in refuting them.

The weekly meeting of the Agricultural Society at Peshawar was held at Peshawar on Tuesday, the 11th inst., and communications from the members, and a meeting of the members, were read from all parts of the country. A sample of a "society" was exhibited, which had been forwarded by Mr. Thompson, who states on the authority of a European member, that the Society had made excellent long cloths and shirtings, and was resolved to ask for a larger supply, in order that the specimens might be shown to the members of the society at the three Presidencies. We would suggest, that the specimens should be forwarded to the members of the society at the three Presidencies.

The *Calcutta Morning Chronicle* informs us, that the only French publication permitted to travel in England, at a newspaper, is the *Calcutta Morning Chronicle*. The *Calcutta Morning Chronicle* is a weekly publication, and is published in Calcutta, and is published in Calcutta.

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can confide in the testimony of those who are well acquainted with the subject, the whole expense of this winter Visitation will be more than covered by 30,000 Rs.!

**COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ENGLAND AND INDIA BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.**—Perhaps the most important, as well as the most interesting, intelligence received in India since the beginning of this century, is the fact communicated by the last mail of the complete success of the Submarine Electric Telegraph, which has been laid down across the Straits of Dover between England and France. A message was sent from Paris to the North Foreland near Dover, and a reply received in less than a minute and a half. This is the commencement of a series of experiments, which will, in the course of ten years, result in the establishment of a communication between the various Presidencies in India, and London, twice a day. The Submarine Telegraph is rapidly rising to the importance of a science, which will not pause in its progress, till it has brought the most widely separated parts of the globe into a mutual and instantaneous intercourse with each other. The great event which we now record, may be said to indicate that we have obtained the same command of the ocean, for the purposes of intercommunication, which we have heretofore enjoyed of the land. England has thus been united to the Continent of Europe by a submarine telegraph; but we cannot stop there; the next object of pursuit, and the next step of progress will be to unite her by the same instrumentality to the Continent of America. The distance between the North of Ireland and St. John's, Newfoundland, is calculated at about 2000 miles, and the whole expense of a submarine Telegraph across the Atlantic is estimated at 100,000. No time will be lost in attempting to establish this line between England and America, and the successful completion of it will be the immediate signal for the commencement of other lines, among the foremost of which will, of course, be that from London to Bombay. With the exception of a narrow strip of land through Egypt from Alexandria to Suez, the whole of this line may be laid down in the ocean, which is our own domain. The cable would pass from the Lamps of the Lighthouse, to Malta, and on to Alexandria. At Suez, the cable would again be planted in our own element, and extended to Aden, and from Aden across to Bombay. gigantic as this plan may seem, it cannot, after the successful experiment between Dover and Calais, be considered more visionary or even remote, than the navigation of our Indian seas by large steamers appeared to be after the Atlantic had been bridged by the Great Western. The expense of such a line would not exceed half a million sterling, and the whole cost of it would be subscribed in an hour in London for any Company to whom its profits might be assigned. So absolute is our confidence in the progress of the age, that we have no hesitation in fixing the year 1853, as the period when the Times will be obliged to appropriate a whole column daily to the intelligence despatched the previous day by Electric Telegraph from Ceylon, Madras, Bombay, Agra, Lahore, Simlah, and Calcutta to London. Can the mind grasp the results of such a daily communication between us and England, on the public institutions of India, and on the feelings, the habits, and the aspirations of its Anglo-Saxon, and native community? But unless Lord Dalhousie looks very sharp about him, and hastens on our own inland Telegraph, we shall have a telegraph commu-

nication between Bombay and London, long before we have one between Bombay, and Lahore, or Calcutta.

But there are other reasons for hesitating the Indian authorities at home on this subject, and using the strongest importunity for the appropriation of Fifteen lakhs of Rupees, or a little more than one-half per cent. of the gross income of India, to this local Telegraph which is to embrace every Presidency in India. If this work be pushed on to its completion as fast as Dr. O'Shaughnessy can get his appliances to bear on it, we may obtain intelligence from England in Calcutta, twice a month, in Thirteen days, long before the London and Bombay submarine Telegraph is completed. They are rapidly covering Europe with a network of Telegraphs, and a Congress is about, it is said, to be held at Vienna, for the purpose of determining that they shall not be suspended in time of war. The Electric Telegraph has now approached the confines of Turkey, and it is to be immediately introduced into that kingdom; and London will soon be placed in instantaneous communication with Constantinople. The Turkish Government, having once tasted the blessings of the Telegraph in Europe, will lose no time in extending it throughout its dominions in Asia. The nearest distance from Constantinople across Asia Minor to Sanderson, is in twelve hours through Palestine to El Arish, and from El Arish to Suez, is not greater than from Bombay to Calcutta, and we feel confident, that within a year or two after the Telegraph has reached Constantinople from the various capitals of Europe, it will be stretched down to Suez, and thus give the Porte instantaneous information of whatever may be passing in its Asiatic and African dominions. News would thus reach Suez from London, daily, and the magnificent steamers which the Court are now constructing, will easily complete the voyage between that Port and Bombay in twelve days. Within an hour, the intelligence which had arrived at Bombay, might be circulated through every Presidency town; and thus while we are waiting for the Submarine Telegraph, which is to reduce the distance between Calcutta and London to the compass of an hour or two, we may establish a communication of only Thirteen days between this Dependency and the mother country, if we can only persuade the Court and the Board to write the word "sanctioned" to Lord Dalhousie's proposal for the Rail in India. It will be a burning shame if the halt civilized Government of Turkey should complete its line of Telegraphic wires between Constantinople and Suez before our unlightened Government has finished the Bombay Agra and Calcutta lines.

**THE CRYING WANTS OF INDIA.—THE BISHOP'S CHARGE.**—The Bishop of Calcutta has honored us with a copy of his sixth Charge to his Clergy, delivered on the 1st of October last. It is not usual, we think, to make such documents the subjects of editorial comment, and we need, therefore, on the present occasion, only state that it was exactly adapted to the circumstances of the times, and that it embodies those correct views of evangelical truth, of which the Bishop is one of the most distinguished champions. Our business is not with the Charge but with the dedication to the Bishops of Madras, Bombay, and Colombo, and more particularly to that sentence of it which the Bishop has printed by itself in capitals, in order to draw public attention to it.

**AN INCREASE OF CHAPLAINS, AND A BISHOP.**

**RIO AT AGRA ARE THE CRYING WANTS OF INDIA.**

As we have had many occasions of bringing forward what appeared to us to be "the crying wants of India," and to urge them on the consideration of Government, both in India and in England, we cannot be expected to consider the assertion thus made in the Charge, in any other light than that of a great fallacy. We are constrained by every feeling of consistency to record our entire dissent from it, and, if possible, to prevent its being accepted as a fact, lest it should tend to divert the public mind from the real wants of the country, to those which are very secondary, if not, in some respects, imaginary. The Bishop has not given us any idea of the number of additional Chaplains he considers necessary, but we may assume Twelve as the smallest complement; that is, four Full, and eight Assistant Chaplains. The expense of this augmentation, combined with that of the Bishopric of Agra, will not fall short of One lakh and a half of Rupees a year. Now, this is precisely the sum at which the Post Office Commissioners estimated the financial difference between the present rates of newspaper postage, which are to the last degree unjust as well as impolitic, and the establishment of a uniform rate of One anna a cover throughout India; and we trust we are not to be considered either too professional or too sectarian in our views, if we suggest that this reduction of newspaper postage to a penny half penny a cover, is unquestionably a far more immediate, and even crying want in India than a dozen new Chaplains, or even one new Bishop. Then, again, there is the Electric Telegraph, to connect Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Agra, Lahore and Simlah, and to circulate all information, public or private, from one extremity of India to the other within an hour; and who is there, Protestant or Catholic, Ecclesiastical or Dissenter, Christian, Hindoo or Mahomedan, who would hesitate for a moment to appropriate any money which could be spared to the immediate completion of this grand national object rather than to the increase of the ecclesiastical establishment at this Presidency? We have mentioned two of the most pressing wants of India, without adhering to others scarcely less urgent which the observation of every man will at once suggest to his mind. Nothing can be farther from our intention than to cast the slightest reflection on the Bishop for the opinion which he has thus expressed, and from which we dissent. It is very natural that his thoughts should be directed more particularly to the department over which he presides, and that in his anxiety to augment his own ecclesiastical staff, he should in a measure lose sight of other objects, which appear important to those who do not participate in his episcopal views. We have no doubt whatever, that the Bishop writes most conscientiously when he reckons the multiplication of his own establishment of Chaplains as one of the two crying wants of India, and even those who, like ourselves, think his Lordship labors under a hallucination in his estimate of those wants, are most willing to make every allowance for the strength of those feelings which arise out of his position.

In reference to this question, we must not forget that the Government of India has invariably acted upon the principle, that it is bound to make provision only for the spiritual and the bodily wants of its own public establishments, and that the non-official community must supply its own necessities. Government repudiates the idea of being under any obligation

to furnish either Surgeons or Chaplains, for the public at large, and, at this Presidency at least, the rule has never been infringed. The most recent confirmation of this principle, is supplied by the case of this little town. As soon as the Bishop had obtained possession of the Church, he applied to Government for all the requirements of an episcopal place of worship; but they were disallowed as a matter of course, and no expense was sanctioned, but that of a clerk-leader to look after the edifice, which was of public property. A subscription was thereupon raised under the personal superintendence of the Bishop, who has taken up his residence for the most part in this town, for the last seven months, and the whole sum was at once subscribed with a degree of alacrity and munificence, which afforded a fresh triumph of the voluntary principle, and shewed how superfluous was the application to the Bengal Government. The font is now in course of construction in the holy city of Benares, under the superintendence of Major Kittoe, at the expense of our eminent and opulent Railway contractor, Mr. Hunt, though we find to our uttermost surprise, if not horror, that the sculptor has been totally oblivious of the ancient and orthodox figure of every baptistery every font in Italy, and has made it circular instead of octagonal. Soon after, the Bishop went up to Government for a Chaplain, which the Government was equally constrained to refuse. There are, in fact, but six Christian Government servants in this little settlement; the Magistrate, the Bengalee Translator, the Assistant Translator, the Surgeon, the Sudder Ameen, and the Daroga, (Mr. Daraz) the best legacy the Danes left us. Now, of these, two are Roman Catholics; two are Dissenters; and the predecessor of the fifth, the Sudder Ameen, was a Hindoo, and his successor may be a Mahomedan. Even supposing the whole six to be members of the Church of England, their aggregate salaries fall short of 2000 Rs. a month, and Government did not see fit to provide a Chaplain for them at 500 Rs. a month, or Eighty-three Rupees, five annas, four pie a piece. And until the Government of India abandons its principle, and undertakes to provide for the bodily and spiritual exigencies of the community at large, there can be no State Chaplain stationed at Serampore. Government is far too astute not to perceive that the appointment of a Chaplain at 500 Rs. must immediately entail the appointment also of a covenanted Assistant Surgeon at 350 Rs. a month.—The whole of this must be considered as a parenthesis which has crept in from the pardonable weakness of fancying that the affairs of our little Pledgington must be as interesting to the public at large, as they are to an Editor who resides in it.—To the point therefore—Considering that the Government does not profess to provide for the religious instruction of any but those who are the paid servants of the State, the public authorities ought, in our humble opinion, to call for a return of the number of its servants in Civil and Military, who now attend the ministrations of the chief Chaplains, distinguishing the common soldiers and warrant and non-commissioned officers from their superiors. We feel satisfied that a comparison of this statistical return with the number of Chaplains, will shew that there is in reality, little, if any, lack of Episcopal Ministers in India, and that the provision which has been made by Government for the ecclesiastical necessities of its servants, is as large as could reasonably be expected. The number of Chaplains on this establishment, when

Bishop Wilson joined it was 37; by dint of never ceasing and importunate solicitation, he has prevailed on the Court of Directors to increase the number to 67. We think the home Government should pause before it sanctions any present increase of this number. There is no department which has received so large a share of augmentation, compared with the duties which devolve on it, as the ecclesiastical, and it is time that the claims of other branches of the public service should be attended to.

It is a singular aspect of this question of augmentation which we must not lose sight of. At the same time that we were favored with the Bishop's charge, we received also the December number of the *Calcutta Christian Intelligencer*, with a letter on the general character of the clerical establishment at this Presidency, which possesses peculiar importance at a time when the Bishop affirms that an increase of Chaplains is one of the crying wants of India. We have published the extract among our selections, and would ask the reader's particular attention to it. It is one of the most remarkable papers we have seen for an age. It contains the most sweeping condemnation of a whole body of men which is to be found in any Indian publication. We need scarcely say that we do not subscribe to the opinion which it pronounces. Limited as our personal acquaintance with the Chaplains is, we could still point out numerous instances in which its assertions are disproved by the zealous and exemplary conduct of the episcopal ministers at various stations. Now, this declaration of the utter inutility of the whole establishment of Chaplains, with here and there a solitary exception, is given in a publication which is the acknowledged organ, not of any body of Nonconformists, but of that section of the Church of England, the evangelized, with which the Bishop has always felt it his duty and his glory to identify himself. If this description be correct, if out of sixty-seven Clergymen of the Church of England, there be only one, who fully and conscientiously performs his religious functions, there must have been a melancholy neglect of episcopal supervision. If the character of the Clergy in the Presidency of Fort William correspond in any degree with the representations thus published by the Bishop's own party, upon what principle of consistency can his Lordship come forward, and declare that the increase of so ineffectual and unprofitable a body is one of the crying wants of India? Either the Bishop is bound to withdraw his own assertion regarding the spiritual wants of India, or the editor of that publication, who is one of his own clergy and his own party, must qualify, if not repudiate this wholesale condemnation of the Clergy in his diocese. The statement in the *Intelligencer* places the Bishop in a delicate and difficult position; and unless that statement can be most effectually nullified, must prove fatal to the Bishop's appeal for additional Chaplains. This article has extended so far beyond the limits we designed for it, that we must leave the other "crying want" to the next week.

THE LEGISLATIVE MEMBER OF COUNCIL.—The London *Morning Herald* of the 7th November last, the day before the departure of the last mail, published an article on the "New Legislative Councilor," which is remarkable chiefly for the ridiculous mistakes into which the writer has been betrayed, by his animosity towards the Whigs; and as we have pointed out in another column some of

the errors of the Press in India, we may as well embrace the opportunity now offered of alluding to those of the Press at home. The *Herald* says, no one will contend that Whig Radical Governor Generals have always been chosen for mere fitness. But the Editor has forgotten, even if he ever knew, that the Whig Radical Government, as he designates the Whigs, have never appointed but two Governor Generals, and those only one, Lord Auckland, was a Whig, and though he was not elected to rank with those Ministers, yet he was who built up this empire and its institutions, such as Warren Hastings, Lord Wellesley and Lord William Bentinck, yet he was unquestionably a statesman of no mean order, and, to say the least, quite equal to the Tory nominees, Lord Teignmouth, and Lord Amherst. The other Whig Radical Governor General chosen by the Whig Radical Ministry is Lord Dalhousie, and he was chosen for "mere fitness," from the Conservative ranks, and the choice does as much credit to Lord John Russell's discernment as to his liberality of views. In reference to Mr. Macaulay, the Editor has fallen into the inexorable error of asserting that he was six years in India, and returned home with a fortune of 45,000*l.* or 50,000*l.* Mr. Macaulay enjoyed office about four months only beyond three years, and his whole salary did not exceed 38,000*l.*, and as he did not imitate the example of that exemplary patriot Sir Philip Francis, who retired with a fortune double his aggregate salary, he cannot have taken home with him even 25,000*l.* "But even this wealth," the writer states, "he must now feel was acquired without affording the Company, or India, any sufficient equivalent. His sojourn in the East, unmarked by any great national or better remembered measures, on which we do not care to dwell." As to "the mischievous" measure here alluded to, it was simply the Act facetiously called the Black Act, because it put the blacks and whites upon an equality, and abolished an invidious distinction between Europeans and Natives, by subjecting the former equally with the latter to the jurisdiction of the Company's Courts. But in the fifteen years which have since elapsed, we have never heard any complaint of its having done any other mischief than that of taking away the inalienable and indefeasible right of an Englishman to the blessings of that system of English law, from which the people of England are now congratulating themselves in having been happily emancipated by the establishment of County Courts. Among the "questionable" measures passed during Mr. Macaulay's legislative incumbency, are the glorious Act which gave us the freedom of the Press—the introduction of the Bonding system into Calcutta;—the first relaxation of the intolerable Post office laws, and the establishment of a lower rate of newspaper postage;—the consummation of Lord William Bentinck's plan for giving the initiatory cognizance of all suits to Native Judges, and the corresponding elevation of indigenous Agency in our judicial system. At last, but not least, the abolition of the Persian language from law proceedings, and the restoration of the use of the vernacular tongue to the people, after six centuries of compulsory disuse. Doubtless, in the opinion of the Editor of the *Herald*, none of these measures are ranked among "great actions," but in the judgment of those who can understand our institutions, they are, strange to say, considered as indicating large strides of improvement. For these Acts Mr. Macaulay received 10,000*l.* a year; but the great measure for

which he received no remuneration, and which he undertook, gratuitously, as President of the Law Commission, was his Criminal Code, which after having survived the odium so unjustly cast on it because it originated with him, has been pronounced by the most competent Judges to be the very best which has ever yet been drafted. It will probably become the law of British India, where twelve millions have expired, and thus place us, in this remote and half-civilized dependency, in a more advantageous position than all the jurists and statesmen of England have yet been able to place the mother country in.

Mr. Macaulay was not succeeded by Mr. Cameron, but by Mr. Amos, to whom India, according to the *Herald*, "owes little in the way of legal improvement or reform." But the Editor should have known that the period of Mr. Amos's counsellorship was one of warlike enterprises, or feverish excitement, during which there was little leisure for the progress or improvement of legislation. Mr. Amos was one of the ablest, and the most industrious of those to whom the important office of Legislative Member has been entrusted, and, if we take upon us to make more peaceful times, would unquestionably have attached the remembrance of many important measures to his name. Mr. Cameron, who succeeded him, was considered by the Court of Directors as a great legislative actor, and was distinguished there for his whole career as a devoted legislator, just as Lord Ellenborough was decared for being a reckless conqueror; but the numerous documents which Mr. Cameron assisted in drawing up, and which he has left as a legacy to the country, afford the strongest evidence of his legal attainments and of the broad and liberal views he always advocated.

Mr. Bethune, we are told, was inferior in experience to the Chief Justice of Bengal, Sir Lawrence Peel—which he might be without any great discredit, for the judicial experience of Sir Lawrence in legal attainments, or succeeded so completely in attracting to himself the universal confidence and esteem of the country? Mr. Bethune is said also to have been "immeasurably inferior in experience and attainments of all kinds to Mr. Prinsep" and of "little use to competent Civil Servants, like Sir Frederick Currie and Mr. Lewis." We shall not attempt to examine the invidious comparison which has been thus instituted between our late legislative member, and the three gentlemen thus named, but leave it entirely in the hands of the reader. But, this we are fully prepared to assert that Mr. Bethune's failure as the Legislative member of Council arose from no want of aptitude for the office, and no defect of jurisprudential experience, but entirely from the great error of considering its duties subordinate in importance to others which, from their philanthropic attraction, were allowed to absorb his time and attention. While we are desirous of giving Mr. Bethune ample credit for the warmth of his benevolence, his pecuniary disinterestedness, and his unimpeded zeal in the cause of education, truth compels us to say that the duties of legislation were in no case so seriously neglected, as during his incumbency; and we rejoice that a repetition of this grievance has been avoided by placing Sir James Colville at the head of the Educational department.

Of those legislative duties, the *Herald* gives us an amusing description, in which every assertion happens to be erroneous. He states that Mr. Bethune's successor has to legislate for, or to advise on the laws for 140

millions of people.—The population for whom the Legislative Council labors scarcely reaches half that number. He tells us that they are composed of different races, Hindoos, Mahomedans, Arabs, Guebres, Gonds, Bhils, Armenians, Portuguese and Boodists.—As to the Guebres, whom we term Parsees, it is, we believe, only on one solitary occasion that the Council has been required to legislate for; the Gonds and the Bhils belong to the non-regulation Provinces, and we have never yet seen a single Act which has any reference whatever to the domestic institutions of the Armenians, the Portuguese, or the Boodists. He tells us that they speak various languages, the Sanskrit, the Hindoostani, the Telougo, the Bengalee, the Prakrit;—whereas the Sanskrit has not been spoken for twenty centuries, if it ever was spoken at all, and the Prakrit is a dead language, to be found only in the dramatic productions of a very ancient age. At the same time, the Editor entirely omits all allusion to four out of the five languages of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, for which the Council legislates. He tells us that the numerous castes are governed by various laws, such as the Institutes of Munoo, the Goutoo Code, the *Dugga Bhaga* and the *Dharm Retten*.—But the Goutoo Code is only an English analysis of the laws of Munoo, and is never quoted in the Courts, and the *Dharm Retten* is a book totally unknown in India, at least by that name.—And, yet, the *Morning Herald* is one of the public authorities of the Fourth Estate, which is about to take a share in the discussions which are to decide the character of our administration in India for the next twenty years. Bah!

These errors regarding a distant and unknown land which the *Herald* occasionally honors with a condescending notice would be excusable if the confidence with which they were announced was not proportioned to their magnitude. But what are we to say to the *Herald*, when he is equally wide of the mark respecting proceedings which are passing around him in London, and assures us that this post, "worth 10,000*l.* a year, equivalent to the sum paid to our Lord Chancellor," has been given to a gentleman who has been three years and a half at the bar, not more than 25 or 26 years of age, a mere stripling, not even up to the Whig standard of efficiency, a barrister of five years' standing, viz. Mr. Nassau Senior, Junior, that is, the son of Mr. Nassau Senior, Senior—the whole of which story is an absolute and palpable error.

THE EGYPTIAN RAILWAY.—This important question which at one time threatened to interrupt the amicable relations which have for so many years subsisted between England and the Porte, has apparently at length arrived at a satisfactory termination. Abbas Pacha, in his anxiety to complete an undertaking which promised so much advantage to the country over which he rules, and to draw still closer the bond of union between Egypt and Great Britain, allowed himself to overstep the limits fixed by the treaty of 1811. That treaty, while it vested the hereditary Pashalic of Egypt in Mehemet Ali and his descendants, provided, among other restrictions on his authority, that he should not undertake any works of magnitude without first requesting the permission of his Suzerain, the Sultan of Turkey. The treaty, in fact, resembled in many respects those into which our Government has entered with the nominally independent princes within the bound-

ries of India, and the provisions of which become binding or nominal according to the relative power of the parties. Mehemet Ali may have overstepped the limit, but a license permitted to the warrior who had twice shaken the Sultan's throne was not likely to be extended to his comparatively powerless descendant, and the Porte seized the opportunity of asserting its determination to adhere strictly to the original treaty. It has been suggested that this determination may have been increased by the irritation felt in the Divan at the pertinacious refusal of the Pasha to introduce the Tanzimat into Egypt, but the approval of their measures expressed by Sir Stratford Canning, the well-known English Minister at Constantinople, is a sufficient guarantee that he at least considered them founded on justice. He had, indeed, a part of no common difficulty to play. On the one hand, the accession of the Transit between India and England was an object of the highest importance to British interests, while, on the other hand, the determination of Abbas Pasha to construct it without any permission whatever, was a violation of the treaty of 1811, which Sir Stratford himself had assisted in framing. His difficulties were, however, much diminished by the anxiety of the Sultan and his Ministers to manifest their gratitude to England for the prompt support she had afforded them in the "arrogation question," when the presence of a British fleet in the Bosphorus probably saved Turkey from a war with the combined powers of Russia and Austria. The English Minister, then, proposed to use the phrase of the *Malta Times*—*a sacro termino*, which would maintain the rights of the Sultan, and promote the interests of England. The Pasha consented to forward to the Sultan a formal request for permission to commence the undertaking, and the Sultan consented to grant it, and thus the victory of etiquette remains with the Turkish Court. The consequences of the happy settlement of the affair have already, according to the *Egyptian correspondent of the Bombay Times*, been manifest to themselves. The views of the British Government on the superintendence of Mr. Borthwick, assisted by several of the most active Egyptian officials, and the Engineers have already commenced their survey. The line will for the present terminate at Cairo; it is rather more than one hundred miles long, and there is every probability that locomotives will be running on it before they make their appearance in Bengal. The Pasha has taken the most stringent precautions against any resort to forced labour, and has issued a proclamation, fixing the rate of wages to be paid, and arranging for the weekly discharge of all claims. Meanwhile, the remaining portion of the route to Suez has been macadamized, and there is little doubt that within two years, the most dreaded transit through Egypt will be reduced to a pleasant trip of some eighteen hours.

DE PROPAGANDA FIDE.—An article appeared under this title, in the issue of the *Friend of India* for 31st July last, in which we endeavoured to show, first, that the amount subscribed by the Protestants throughout the world for the propagation of the Gospel was four times as much as the amount contributed by the Roman Catholics towards the same object; and secondly, that the English Nonconformists as a body collected rather more than the members of the Established Church. In support of our argument, we quoted the following statistics from the *Bombay Guardian*. In 1847, the Missionary collections were









































